



Cabinet supplement agenda

Date: Tuesday 10 October 2023

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: The Oculus, Buckinghamshire Council, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury HP19 8FF

Membership:

M Tett (Leader), Cllr A Macpherson (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing), G Williams (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment), S Broadbent (Cabinet Member for Transport), J Chilver (Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources), A Cranmer (Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services), C Harriss (Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure), A Hussain (Cabinet Member for Communities), P Strachan (Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration) and M Winn (Cabinet Member for Homelessness and Regulatory Services)

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If you would like to attend a meeting, but need extra help to do so, for example because of a disability, please contact us as early as possible, so that we can try to put the right support in place.

For further information please contact: Ian Hunt democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

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Streetworks & Statutory Undertakers Rapid Review – Recommendations from the TECC Select Committee Review Group

Chairman – Cllr Bill Chapple OBE

Response from Cabinet

| Recommendation | Cabinet's Response – Y/N & comments | Lead Member/Officer & Timelines |
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| <p>1. That dedicated funds available within the Department be directed towards measures that increase service proactivity and efficiency, for instance by maximising recruitment 'at ground level' and offering staff training opportunities and accreditation.</p> | <p>Agreed. Proposals to fully utilise the income surplus are being developed and will be agreed with the Cabinet Member. This will include additional recruitment of staff and ensuring they have the appropriate training. Specialist external support will be secured to consider the introduction of a lane rentals scheme which will include discussions with those authorities that have already introduced a lane rental scheme to learn from their experiences.</p> | <p>Cllr Steve Broadbent Kevin Goad, Service Director, Highways and Technical Services</p> |
| <p>2. Plans for core testing reinstatements are piloted as soon as practicable.</p> | <p>Agreed. The service has already instigated a six-month pilot coring programme to test the quality of reinstatements. At the end of the programme the pilot will be assessed to determine whether there is a business case to continue the programme which will be considered by the Cabinet Member for Transportation and Service Director for Highways.</p> | <p>Cllr Steve Broadbent Kevin Goad, Service Director, Highways and Technical Services</p> |

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| <p>3. Consideration be given to extending working hours to provide cover for sites to be inspected during evening and weekends.</p> | <p>Agreed. This is intended as part of the wider transformation of the Highways service and will require full staff consultation. A costed draft proposal of how to extend the inspection regime to provide the capacity to carry out evening and weekend inspections has been developed and is currently being considered for implementation. This will involve a recruitment process and should allow for additional resources to be in place by December 2023. In the meantime, the service will continue to provide cover on a voluntary basis during these extended periods.</p> | <p>Cllr Steve Broadbent Kevin Goad, Service Director, Highways and Technical Services</p> |
| <p>4. The Cabinet Member for Transport seriously considers pursuing court action against Statutory Undertakers that breach road traffic conditions rather than issuing a fixed penalty notice due to it being more cost effective for companies to pay the fine rather than comply with conditions.</p> | <p>Agreed. Discussions with our legal advisors as to how best this can be implemented is being undertaken. We are also working with the London Borough of Enfield who have successfully prosecuted utilities for several years and adopting their best practice.</p> | <p>Cllr Steve Broadbent Kevin Goad, Service Director, Highways and Technical Services</p> |
| <p>5. The use of smart temporary or intelligent traffic lights be incentivised across the network for traffic management where possible.</p> | <p>Agreed in part. This is agreed in principle, but the use of surplus funding should be prioritised to ensure the service is properly resourced in the first instance. We have been in discussion with Utility Companies already and approximately 60%, mainly the larger companies, are already using smart lights on 2-way traffic flows. Technology is now developing so that it can be used on multi-way lights and the service will actively encourage all providers to use this technology. Other forms of intelligent traffic signals at road works are often used in parts of Europe, comprising of count-down and we will need to seek the DfT's advice on their use. If DfT are supportive it is proposed that we pilot an initiative with our Term Maintenance Contractor.</p> | <p>Cllr Steve Broadbent Kevin Goad, Service Director, Highways and Technical Services</p> |

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| <p>6. A target be set for all temporary traffic lights and other traffic management be removed within four hours following completion of works and explore penalization measures for non-compliance.</p> | <p>Agreed. Early discussions have commenced with some of the larger utility companies who already employ this practice as standard. The proposal will be to include this as a condition, that gives us the mechanism to apply penalties as appropriate and the additional resources will be utilised to carry out the relevant inspection. We will also consider asking our own staff to remove unnecessary traffic management and seek to recharge the cost of doing this to the operator.</p> | <p>Cllr Steve Broadbent Kevin Goad, Service Director, Highways and Technical Services</p> |
| <p>7. The Council promotes itself as a neutral third party when requesting work programmes from the fibre companies.</p> | <p>Agreed. It is proposed to initiate a start-up meeting with the appointed rural broadband fibre company for Buckinghamshire. This will involve agreeing a joint work programme, methods of working, communications, reporting and inspections regime and behaviours to ensure best practice.</p> | <p>Cllr Steve Broadbent Kevin Goad, Service Director, Highways and Technical Services</p> |
| <p>8. The use and benefits of one.network be actively promoted to the public, parishes and Councillors.</p> | <p>Agreed. A meeting has been held with one.network to explore what tools are available to assist with this improvement activity. In addition, it is proposed to produce a user guide which can be accessed by the public and which will highlight the benefits and information that is available. A training and advisory session will also be introduced with Members with their own one.network account. Over the last 18 months we have publicly promoted the use of one.network through regular communications with ward members, through two all member briefings and at the annual town and parish council stakeholder event.</p> | <p>Cllr Steve Broadbent Kevin Goad, Service Director, Highways and Technical Services</p> |

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| <p>9. The Streetworks team work with the Statutory Undertakers to engage with local Community Boards regarding planned upcoming works, particularly those that may be disruptive.</p> | <p>Agreed. As part of the changes to the service, a forward plan of upcoming works is being developed and will be published on the council's website. The Streetworks team will be the custodians of this and will lead on seeking and obtaining the information from all works promoters. Recruitment is progressing and an appointment made thereafter. Advance visibility will enable all parties to explore opportunities for collaboration on works where appropriate, improved forward planning and knowledge of where and when there may be potential conflicts to allow early discussions. This will be completed by December 2023.</p> | <p>Cllr Steve Broadbent Kevin Goad, Service Director, Highways and Technical Services</p> |
| <p>10. The Cabinet Member for Transport urgently lobby the Department for Transport to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Significantly increase Fixed Term Penalty Notice fines for conditions being breached and/or operating without permit to ensure that fines are a true deterrent. b. Increase Section 74 fines to Statutory Undertakers and for them to be applicable on non-working days. | <p>Agreed. The service will support and provide the relevant information and advice to enable the Cabinet Member to lobby and raise issues of concern and note as appropriate. In addition to the recommendations, we will also lobby for greater powers to prevent works or remove unsafe contractors from the network, and to make some of the current guidance and best practice statutory: for example, the removal of traffic management equipment within a defined period.</p> | <p>Cllr Steve Broadbent</p> |