

CABINET MEMBER FOR TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION

RECORD OF DECISIONS taken by the Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation, Councillor Lynne Stagg, at her meeting held on Thursday, 25 February 2021 at 4.00 pm in Virtual Remote Meeting

Present

Councillor Lynne Stagg

Councillor Simon Boshier
Councillor Graham Heaney

5. Apologies (AI 1)

No apologies for absence were received.

6. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)

Councillor Heaney said he had a personal and non-prejudicial interest for agenda item no.5 Safety Improvements (Safer Routes to School) as he lives in Hayling Avenue. He would not comment on this particular improvement but would like to comment on some of the other improvements.

7. Portsmouth E-Scooter Rental Trial Scheme (AI 3)

Hayley Chivers, Strategic Transport Lead, introduced the report and welcomed John Hamer (City Relationship Manager) and Erik Hasselbalch (Senior Operations Manager) from Voi, who have been appointed as the scheme operator.

In response to questions from Councillor Heaney officers explained the e-scooters can go up to 15.5 mph but for the first month of the trial they are limited to ten mph.

Slow-go and no-go areas are still being developed. Commercial Road and the northern end of Palmerston Road are no-go zones where e-scooters are not allowed. The southern end of Palmerston Road may become a go-slow zone. As the project is fast moving and continually evolving members will be briefed over the next few weeks. The first month of the trial is important as officers will assess how routes are working with a restricted number of e-scooters and reduced speeds to see if speeds can be increased to 15 mph.

The scooters are not tied to specific routes though there are certain roads they cannot use. Riders have to use the mandatory parking hubs.

Mr Hasselbalch explained that Voi's' Coventry scheme was unsuccessful as there were too many scooters in too small an area and the right enforcement mechanism was not in place. Voi relaunched the Coventry scheme at the University of Warwick. Coventry was the third launch and Portsmouth is no.14. Voi operate schemes in Bristol, Liverpool and Cambridge. The Newcastle scheme is run by Neuron Mobility.

Ambassador Teams police the scheme and educate users. Changes have been made to the geo-fencing system that can shut off the throttle in no-go zones.

Councillor Boshier was concerned that the trial would lead to a possible upsurge in illegal e-scooters and asked how the police would address this. He had seen young children using e-scooters and knew of children's e-scooters being confiscated by the police. Mr Hasselbalch said public awareness campaigns in Liverpool and Northamptonshire on why private e-scooters are illegal had been very successful. He agreed Voi should work with the police to tackle illegal usage and was more than happy to work with them and engage where needed in public outreach. A briefing took place with Marcus Kennedy of Hampshire Constabulary and he is comfortable with the proposed scheme.

Mr Hamer said although the trial is from March to November Voi usually review schemes after a couple of months so members can be updated on progress. Voi work with council officers and constantly review the scheme.

Councillor Heaney said people will want to see the police acting over illegal e-scooters; groups such as the visually impaired and cyclists need to be reassured. Riders need to respect pedestrians and other road users. He hoped any modal shift would not be to the detriment of public transport and cycling. However, he supported the trial.

Councillor Stagg emphasised that the scheme was a trial and hoped it would lead to government legislation on buying and selling e-scooters; she has written to the Department of Transport (DfT) and had non-committal reply. Scooters are a good way to get around and reduce the number of cars. Along with Councillors Boshier and Heaney, she agreed that Voi's thorough presentation was excellent. She thanked Voi and officers for their hard work.

DECISIONS

The Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transportation:

- 1. Noted the progress that has been made with the E-Scooter Rental Trial project since September 2020;**
 - 2. Approved Portsmouth City Council's participation in an E-Scooter Rental Trial to commence in March 2021 until 26 November 2021, to be achieved via the introduction of an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO);**
 - 3. Approved Portsmouth City Council entering into a Vehicle Special Order (VSO) Agreement with the Department for Transport (DfT) to authorise the use of E-Scooters in the project area with the express delegation to sign the VSO delegated to the City Solicitor.**
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- 8. Casualty Statistics Analysis Report (AI 4)**

Michelle Love, Safer Travel Manager, introduced the report and read out comments from Ian Saunders of the Portsmouth Cycle Forum. Deputations can be viewed on the council's website at:

In response to questions from members, she explained that the report followed the DfT template. However, it is possible to include data such as the number of

casualties caused by e-scooters. At the moment e-scooters together with other unlicensed vehicles such as a quad bike or horse and cart fall in the "Other" category. It is likely that data will include e-scooters as their numbers increase.

Although it is not supplied as standard, it is possible to obtain more detailed data on age and gender for pedestrian casualties (as currently supplied for car occupants) to enable more informed decisions to be made. Other data sources as well as the police STATS 19 data are available and can be used; however, it comes with the caveat that officers source and check the data so that it can provide greater detail.

Councillor Stagg agreed with Councillor Boshers suggestion of combining the two recommendations so that other sources of data and evidence as well as the Casualty Statistics Analysis Report are used to inform road safety projects.

DECISIONS

The Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transportation:

Agreed that future road safety infrastructure projects are selected using the Annual Casualty Report as a recognised source of data to prioritise schemes to align with or determine the available budget. It will be used alongside the results of speed surveys, stakeholder correspondence and requests and anecdotal evidence from surveys completed at behavioural change and enforcement events to prioritise schemes to align with or determine the available budget.

9. Safety Improvements (Safer Routes to School) (AI 5)

Michelle Love, Safer Travel Manager, introduced the report. She read out deputations from Kimberly Barrett and Mayfield School (David Jeapes, Headteacher and Sara Williams, Chair of the Governing Body).

Councillor Stagg and officers explained they met with Mayfield School on 10 February together with ward councillors. The two options presented then are in the report. At the meeting there was some support for a one-way system. Officers said they would investigate a one-way system but it does not come within the remit of Safer Routes to School by encouraging walking and cycling. However, they are committed to working with the school to find a balance for all. If the school want a one-way system a report would come to a decision meeting to consider how funding would be re-allocated. It would be implemented via a public consultation and a TRO.

Officers explained that a report in September was connected to ongoing work being carried out by Highways Design as part of the planning permission process, for example, vehicle access and dropped kerbs. Highways Design were present at the meeting on 10 February. Transport officers will work with Highways Design so that they complement what each other is doing.

Councillor Boshers pointed out that although a one-way system had been implemented around College Park and Lyndhurst Schools the situation with Mayfield School was more complex as Mayfield Road and Kirby Road are major east/west roads and would affect several hundred properties. A one-way system would need to be considered carefully as a separate issue.

DECISIONS

The Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transportation:

Approved the spend from the Local Transport Plan 3 - Safer Routes to School Improvements budget to be spent at:

- a) Mayfield School - junction of Mayfield Road and Kensington Road;**
- b) At least one other location from;**
 - 1. Moorland Road;**
 - 2. Moorings Way/Warren Avenue;**
 - 3. Hayling Avenue (all locations illustrated in Appendix A).**

10. Speed and Casualty Reduction Measures 2021 / 2022 budget (AI 6)

Michelle Love, Safer Travel Manager, introduced the report. She noted that the heading for paragraph 4.4 should be Farlington Avenue. She acknowledged Councillor Boshers' concerns about vehicles obscuring stop lines on the south side of Dysart Avenue opposite the nursery. Residents have raised concerns and officers will investigate how to fund the additional signage and will progress it.

The speed data for Castle Road was gathered while the road was still open. Now that the southern end is closed it is more important that speed limits are adhered to as otherwise vehicles will come to a dead stop. Anti-skid marks will be beige. Colas check that stop lines are still visible every six months under the terms of their contract.

DECISIONS

The Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transportation:

Approved the spend from the Speed Reduction Measure budget of speed reduction measures at the junctions of Dysart/Mansvid/Tredegar Avenue, the junction of Havant Road and Farlington Avenue and Castle Road between Kings Road and Hambrook Road.

11. Highbury Street proposals (TRO 86B/2020: proposed parking restrictions) (AI 7)

Kevin McKee, Parking Team Manager, introduced the report. He read out deputations from a resident who had written in support of the proposal, and Rebecca Crow and Christopher Jones.

Members acknowledged it was a difficult decision as although the majority of respondents were against the proposal, photographic evidence showed that vehicles were obstructing the pavement. Ward councillors had been consulted. Councillor Stagg noted that other cobbled streets in Portsmouth had yellow lines and that on the grounds of safety the proposals should be implemented. Cobbles are particularly difficult for buggies and wheelchairs. She acknowledged there would be problems whatever decision was taken. However, she would like to consult further with local residents to see if a compromise could be reached, such as dropped kerbs, and to consider solutions to other issues raised during the consultation, for example, delivery vans using the street.

DECISIONS

The Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transportation:

- 1. Agreed that having considered the public response contained in Appendix B, that the restrictions proposed in Highbury Street under TRO 86/2020 (Appendix A, sections A2 and B1) are implemented under TRO 86B/2020, meaning the double yellow lines and KA zone parking bay are installed as proposed;**
- 2. It is noted that the remaining proposals of TRO 86/2020 were implemented in January 2021 under TRO 86A/2020, due to support and/or no objections.**

12. Solent Transport Constitution (AI 8)

Felicity Tidbury, Transport Planning Manager, introduced the report. Although the report from Southampton City Council recommending revisions to the Solent Transport Constitution was dated October 2017, it had only come to light as a result of a successful bid to the Future Transport Zone. A signed constitution is needed to draw down the funding. Officers apologised for the oversight.

Members discussed the definition of substitute members who could attend Solent Transport meetings, for example, the Leader, Deputy Leader, or a Cabinet Member, and whether substitutes should be named or not. The Chair said she was meeting the Solent Transport Manager the following week and would seek clarity over the next step. Different local authorities in the partnership might have a different interpretation of a substitute. She would suggest having any Cabinet Member as a substitute so that there is a wider pool of people.

Update following the decision meeting: A member of the Solent Transport Joint Committee can only be an elected member. This was widened to include any member of that authority.

DECISIONS

The Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transportation:

Endorsed the changes to the Solent Transport constitution as set out in this report.

13. Review of Portsmouth Supported Bus Services (AI 9)

Felicity Tidbury, Transport Planning Manager, introduced the report. Councillor Matthew Winnington made a deputation in support of the proposals.

Councillor Boshier commended having the contracts finishing at the same time rather than having piecemeal arrangements. The ridership figures on the no.22 service are not surprising as it is mainly used by elderly people who are likely to avoid public transport during Covid. He hoped passenger numbers for all services would improve once lockdown ends to give a better idea of usage.

Officers explained that tenders can be up to five years. It can be more than five years with agreement. The no.22 is coming to the end of its five-year contract period. The no.25 is a new service that replaced the 6, 15 and 16 services.

DECISIONS

The Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transportation:

Approved the extension of all 5 existing supported bus service contracts from 27 March 2021 to 31 December 2021.

14. Concessionary Fares Scheme (AI 10)

Felicity Tidbury, Transport Planning Manager, introduced the report.

Cllr Boshier stated that the proposals mean the council will pay less towards reimbursing concessionary fares.

It was recognised that the amount of mileage could change at short notice. Bus operators can currently obtain the Covid-19 Bus Services Support Grant (CBSSG) from central government.

DECISIONS

The Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transportation:

- 1. Noted the contents of this report;**
- 2. Revised the reimbursement to bus operators to one based on the percentage of mileage operated in accordance with guidance issued by the Department for Transport on 20 November 2020;**
- 3. Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transportation in conjunction with the Director of Regeneration and the S151 Officer, to make any necessary changes within the allocated budget.**

The meeting concluded at 6.10 pm.

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Councillor Lynne Stagg
Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation