

Environment Sub-Committee

9 July 2014

Present: Councillor B Burdis (Chair)
Councillors G Bell, L Bell, J Cassidy, K Conroy,
E Hodson, T Mulvenna, D Ord and M Reynolds.

E1/07/14 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors C Johnson, W Lott, G Madden and P McIntyre.

E2/07/14 Substitute Members

Councillor T Mulvenna for Councillor G Madden

E3/07/14 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.

E4/07/14 North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership – Progress Update

Consideration was given to a report which provided an update of the activities of the North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership at its meetings held on 8 January and 9 April 2014. These activities included:

- The receipt of a presentation from Nexus which provided an overview of its work and responsibilities, an indication of the problem stations in North Tyneside, details of the processes for reporting and responding to flooding incidents and the works undertaken around prevention and mitigation;
- Noting the progress made against the North Tyneside Flood Risk Management Strategy and the Flood Risk Implementation Plan;
- Noting the partners' successful responses to the tidal surge incident in December 2013;
- Agreement for the review of roles and responsibilities of the partners
- An update on the production of a flood wardens' handbook and the information available on the Internet;
- Receipt of a presentation from the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service which set out the water capability of the service, outlined the relevant legislation and provided details of the equipment available and training undertaken;
- Noting the proposals to carry out a desktop exercise to review the operation of the flood season plan;
- Receipt of a report which provided an update on the Flooding Community Preparedness Sub Group and the identification of a communications route during a flooding incident to ensure that information was provided to the most appropriate agency. Consideration was also given to widening the scope of flood wardens to include town centres and business parks.

Members sought clarification on the consideration given by the partners to the impact that remedial schemes could have on properties and land further down the line. An example was given related to the scheme in the Shiremoor area and its possible effect on areas nearer the coast.

Reference was also made to the possibility of diverting more water into the balancing ponds at Marden Quarry and the impact that this could have on the green space in the area. It was suggested that consideration could be given to undertaking works to provide additional storage capacity at Marden Quarry

Members questioned why different schemes within the borough were being constructed to cope with a variety of different event frequencies, such as for a 1 in 100 year event or a 1 in 30 year event. It was explained that individual schemes were designed to meet different standards based on the local circumstances and the agency involved in the delivery of the project.

Consideration was given to the information provided to residents and businesses regarding the cleaning and maintaining gullies. It was suggested that it would be useful for the gully cleansing schedule to be publicised widely so that residents would be informed of when the gullies were to be maintained and thus keep the roads clear of parked vehicles which would allow the gullies to be properly maintained. It was also suggested that flood wardens could assist by informing residents of the gully cleaning schedule in their area. Reference was made to the possibility of providing additional information to residents possibly via the internet. It was also suggested that a presentation on gully cleaning be made at the next meeting of the sub-committee

Member's also referred to steps which would need to be taken to allow the armed services and reserves in the area to provide assistance during major flooding incidents. Details of some of the resources which were available locally were outlined.

It was **agreed** that (1) the report be noted;
(2) Cabinet be requested to give consideration to the publication of the gully cleaning schedule; and
(3) a presentation on gully cleansing be made to the next meeting of the sub-committee.

E5/07/14 Work Programme 2014-2015

Consideration was given to a report that at a meeting of the chairs and deputy chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its sub-committees it had been agreed that in setting a work programme for 2014/2015 scrutiny would focus on undertaking in-depth studies into policy areas which would make a positive contribution to policy development. Each scrutiny sub-committee would consider and prioritise the topics for inclusion in the work programme for that sub-committee. This work programme would be reported back to the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee.

A number of potential topics were presented for the sub-committee's consideration including:

- The development of a borough wide car parking policy
- The development of a cycling strategy
- The development of a waste collection strategy post 2017

- Public rights of way
- The development of a policy on the use of alternative sources of power such as wind and geo-thermal

The sub-committee considered that as the development of a borough wide parking policy fell within the remit of a number of sub-committees, including, for example, the Leisure and Culture Sub-committee in relation car parking and tourism at the coast, it would be appropriate to refer the topic back to the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee for further consideration.

Members were invited to give consideration as to the method they wished to use to carry out the in-depth studies. It was suggested that it would be helpful for the Sub-committee to receive an overview of the current position in relation to each of the topics to enable members to identify the relevant issues and develop an appropriate work programme.

In addition to the in-depth studies the sub-committee would also give consideration to the following:

- The annual review of the Newcastle and North Tyneside Biodiversity Action Plan;
- Updates on the North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership;
- Monitoring the outcomes of previous sub-committee and study group reports

It was **agreed** that the following work programme be agreed:

- A review of the cycling strategy and public rights of way. An overview of the current baseline positions be presented to the September meeting of the sub-committee.
- A review of the development of a waste collection strategy post 2017. An overview of the baseline position be presented to the October 2014 meeting of the sub-committee
- A review of community involvement in delivering the Newcastle and North Tyneside Biodiversity Action Plan. This will be presented to the February 2015 meeting of the sub-committee
- Quarterly monitoring of the reports of the North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership to Cabinet
- The outcomes of previous sub-committee and study group reports will be monitored as appropriate

E6/07/14 Street Lighting Review – Cabinet Response

Consideration was given to a report which provided an update on the Cabinet's response to the second review of street lighting report following its meeting held on 9 June 2014. The report had given consideration to the identification of a number of roads and footways away from residential areas which would be suitable for a part night time switch off of the street lighting and had made two recommendations.

Recommendation 1 – that Cabinet considers implementing a trail of part time night switch off between midnight and 5.30am in the non-residential areas listed in the scheme, subject to consultation with ward members and that this be facilitated through extending the Mayflower Central Management System to these areas;

Recommendation 2 – that Cabinet ask the Senior Manager of Commercial Partnerships to seek feedback from residents and local businesses once the part night switch off trial has been in operation for 3 months

Cabinet had accepted both recommendations and had agreed that officers instruct SSEC to order 3,200 Mayflower units and work with SSEC to devise an appropriate implementation and installation plan.

It was **agreed** that the Senior Manager of Commercial Partnerships be invited to provide an update to the sub-committee on the response from residents and local businesses after the trial switch off had been in operation for 3 months.