
SCRUTINY FOR POLICIES AND PLACE COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

24 April 2018
(Published on 25 April 2018)

Declarations of Interest - Agenda item 2	Action
There were no declarations of interest.	
Minutes from the previous meeting held on 06 March 2018 - Agenda item 3	Action
The minutes of the meeting on 06 March 2018 were accepted as being accurate by the Committee.	
Public Question Time - Agenda item 4	Action
There were 3 Public Questions with regard to Item 6. The members of the public received a brief verbal response from the Strategic Commissioning Manager – Highways and Transport and will receive a written response.	
Local Transport Plan (LTP) Implementation Plan - Agenda item 5	Action
<p>The Committee received a report outlining the draft Local Transport Plan (LTP) Implementation Plan 2018/19. Statutory requirements for transport plans require a long-term Local Transport Plan Strategy complemented by shorter term LTP Implementation plans which set out how funds will be used to implement schemes on the ground.</p> <p>In March 2011, Somerset County Council (SCC) adopted its current LTP covering the period from 2011 to 2026. The Committee was asked for their views on the draft LTP Implementation Plan 2018/19 prior to it being taken to Cabinet in May. The document is a statutory requirement of the LTP process and replaces the current plan that covered until the end of 2017. The plan is short term (2 years), to allow a review of the longer-term LTP Strategy during its implementation period.</p> <p>The Implementation plan includes an update on progress since 2013, delivery against key priorities and gives an update on Major Schemes. The document also looks at how the Council might make the best of the opportunities currently available, what we plan to deliver in the near future, and at the challenges and risks involved. It was highlighted to members that £1.5m has been allocated to Small Improvement Schemes.</p>	

<p>Full consultation was undertaken for the LTP strategy when it was developed and it is intended that further consultation will be undertaken next year as part of the planned refresh of the long-term LTP Strategy.</p> <p>The Committee discussed: funding for the central Somerset area, issues around the maintenance of potholes; capacity to deliver Major schemes; the Small improvement Scheme; CIL funds and concern over coastal erosion in West Somerset.</p> <p>The Committee noted the report and the Major Schemes in place but expressed concern about funding for future schemes and about the resources of the authority to deliver the Schemes.</p>	
<p>A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Response to Statutory Consultation - Agenda item 6</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>The Committee received a report and presentation regarding the SCC response to the Highways England (HE) public consultation on the proposed A303 Sparkford to Ilchester dual carriageway improvement scheme. The public consultation precedes the formal process of seeking consent to construct. There is a strong business case as to the benefits of the scheme for the economic growth of the south West and the UK, increasing safety and improving connectivity and resilience.</p> <p>As a nationally significant infrastructure project, the scheme will be dealt with under the Development Consent Order (DCO) process. The Committee were informed that the scheme will be delivered and operated by HE. SCC is a statutory consultee and has a limited role in the process. The consultation provides the last opportunity to influence the design of the scheme before it is submitted for DCO. Once in DCO it is difficult to vary.</p> <p>The Committee heard that the key concerns raised by SCC in its response broadly echo those of the community with some concerns regarding safety and some regarding the traffic impact and lack of evidence based traffic modelling. HE are continuing to evolve the technical design and are in on-going dialogue with SCC. SCC have asked HE to take steps to mitigate the impact on local communities and have also asked for a mechanism for on-going dialogue with those communities directly affected. No commitment regarding this has been received from HE to date.</p> <p>The Committee discussed: the lack of information provided by HE; the need to consider local road networks as well as highways; concern over disruption and negative impact on local communities and the need for Community Forums to have the ability to influence decisions.</p> <p>The Committee noted the report.</p>	

Award of Contract for the provision of Temporary Labour - Agenda item 7	Action
<p>The Committee received a report outlining the proposal to award the contract for the provision of temporary labour to SCC.</p> <p>The current contract is due to expire in December 2018 and a comprehensive review of the options available for supplying a cost-effective service for delivering temporary labour has been conducted in consultation with current users.</p> <p>The current contract is with Reed and is provided via a master vendor solution and that model provides benefits to SCC through a single point of contact for the authority, reduced supplier margins, increased contract governance, improved performance of the supplier, transparent management information and process efficiencies in terms of the end to end booking process and P2P process.</p> <p>The contract categorises temporary labour into a number of distinct groups including Admin & Clerical, Engineering & Surveying, HR, IT, Management, Procurement, Social & Healthcare (qualified and non-qualified)</p> <p>Reed's agency fee within the current contract is charged according to a pre-determined rate for each category as a fixed £ per hour worked by the candidate which is aligned to SCC Spinal Column Points. Under MSTAR2 the rates remain as a fixed £ per hour but vary by wage rates within bands, job category and whether the worker is supplied from Reed's own workers or has been sourced from a third party through Reed as managed vendor.</p> <p>There are no current concerns regarding the service from Reed. There have been difficulties at times in securing sufficient acceptable Qualified Social Work candidates. Reed have augmented their second tier support suppliers in an effort to resolve this but it is known that this is a marketplace with a high demand at the moment and resource is scarce within the region.</p> <p>The Committee were informed that spend on temporary labour is reducing and this reduction is expected to increase. Temporary Labour adds flexibility to the workforce but is generally more expensive than the overall cost of a permanent employee. As an example, a temporary social worker costs c£80k pa whilst a permanent employee would be c£60k pa. There is a desire to reduce the reliance on temporary staff in this area and move to a permanent workforce but there is a shortage of supply in the region which impacts on our ability to transition workers to permanent.</p> <p>The Committee discussed; whether the service could be provided in-house and social worker retention.</p> <p>The Committee noted the report but requested an interim report 12 months after the start of the new contract to review performance and staff morale.</p>	

Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee Work Programme - Agenda item 8	Action
<p>The Committee considered and noted the Council’s Forward Plan of proposed key decisions.</p> <p>Following debate, the Committee requested the following addition to the work programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An interim report to review the performance of the Temporary Labour Contract and impact on staff moral (Dec 2019, 12 months from start of contract) • Hinkley Point C update (Sept) • County Farms Disposals update • Registration Service (July/Sept) 	
Any other urgent items of business - Agenda item 9	Action
<p>A Committee Member asked that abbreviations and acronyms be expanded in future reports.</p>	