

Minutes of Movement & Net Zero Working Group meeting held at the Council Chambers on 10th June 2024, 9:30am.

In attendance:

Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet	Present	Cllr Lionel O'Hara – Vice Chair	Apologies
Cllr Tony Clayton	Present	Cllr Claire Shea	Present
Cllr Dr Peter Dixon	Apologies	Cllr David Skinner OBE – Chair	Present

Also in attendance:

Cllr Libby Ancrum

Town Clerk

Planning Committee Clerk

32. Apologies for absence

As above.

33. Minutes

The Minutes of the previous Movement & Net Zero Working Group meeting held on 3rd June 2024 were received and agreed.

34. 20mph Update

a) Following receipt from KCC on 7th June of updated costing of the proposed 20mph project, STC Officers produced and circulated a report relating to the information. This was considered by the Working Group.

b) The Working Group considered the updated quote for implementing the proposed 20mph signage scheme, totalling an estimated £153,455.48. This was discussed separately from the quote for deillumination of street signs, due to not having been included in KCC's original quote, and further not being required under any existing policy or traffic safety initiatives, nor of any other previously implemented 20mph scheme in Kent.

c) It was noted that final details of designs as to gateway and signage locations needed to be agreed with Kent County Council, therefore the Working Group would be making its recommendation on principle, bearing this in mind.

d) It was **agreed** that the Movement & Net Zero Working Group make the following recommendation to the Finance & Delivery Committee due to be held on 10th June 2024:

Recommendation:

That the Finance & Delivery Committee approve the updated costs in principle, with Town Council Officers and Councillors to agree final placement of signs and gateway designs. For enhanced gateway features to be excluded from any roads which connect to a road that STC may wish to include in the scheme in future.

e) The Working Group noted that STC had made clear representation to KCC Officers against their Streetlighting team's requirement that all lit street signs be deilluminated on implementation of a 20mph scheme, and to the cost of the scheme promoter. The Town Council's argument was that it is not required by any existing policy or traffic safety initiative, has not previously been imposed on any other 20mph scheme in Kent, and would significantly impact other Councils' ability to afford 20mph schemes in their parishes –

namely Chipstead and Swanley which are both known to be currently pursuing a 20mph scheme.

f) Councillors further noted that STC had conducted its consultation on the basis of the original quote received from KCC, which did not include the cost or notification that STC would need to pay for deillumination of street signs. KCC had neither informed STC of this at that point, nor included it in their own public consultation for the original 20mph zone proposed in 2022.

g) It was **agreed** that the Working Group make the following recommendation to the Finance & Delivery Committee:

That STC continue to raise its strong concerns to KCC about the creation of a blanket need for de-illumination of street signs, as part of 20mph implementation and at the cost of the client, when not required by policy or traffic safety initiative.

h) It was further noted that KCC Member Cllr Streatfeild had emailed Kent County Council Portfolio Holder Cllr Baker to raise his joint concerns with imposing the cost of deilluminating street lights to the client when not backed up by any safety benefits or policy. It would also be brought to the attention of the Kent Association of Local Councils on 14th June 2024.

35. Other points of note

Cllr Ancrum advised that she had recently met with representatives of Sevenoaks Climate Action Network to discuss initiatives which the Town Council could be pursuing to improve the carbon footprint of the Town. They had recommended that promoting energy efficiency initiatives such as retrofitting, as well as existing schemes which aim to help people achieve this, should be the Town Council's priority.

Meeting concluded at 9:54am.