

**Midlothian Council**

**Tuesday 16 December 2014**

**Item No 17**

**NOTE of SEMINAR of MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Tuesday, 18 November 2014 at 2.30 pm.

**Present:-** Provost Wallace, Depute Provost Coventry and Councillors Baxter, Bennett, Bryant, Constable, de Vink, Imrie, Johnstone, Milligan, Muirhead, Pottinger and Rosie.

**Apologies for Absence:-** Councillors Beattie, Montgomery, Russell and Thompson and Mr V Bourne, Mr P Hayes and Mrs M Harkness.

**1 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were intimated.

**2 20 MPH Zones**

There was submitted a report dated 13 November 2014, by the Director, Resources, advising that at its meeting of Tuesday 17 December 2013 Council;

- noted that work was continuing to develop a strategy for the introduction of 20 mph areas and would be the subject of a full report following receipt of advice from Transport Scotland; and
- that the Director Resources would arrange a seminar of Council to discuss the introduction of 20 mph areas when the draft strategy was available.

The report therefore provided details of the indicative Transport Scotland advice and as a consequence outlined a strategy for consideration to extend 20 mph areas across Midlothian.

The Director, Resources was heard in amplification of his report before inviting Mr Ricky Moffat, Head of Commercial Operations to provide a presentation on this matter.

### 3 Presentation

The Head of Commercial Operations thereafter provided a detailed presentation on the subject of 20 MPH Speed Zones, including:-

- 20MPH Options,
- Details of Pilot Projects being undertaken within Edinburgh and Portsmouth;
- Scottish Government Guidance: Good Practice on 20MPH Speed Restrictions;
- The Aims of the 20MPH Strategy for Midlothian;
- The Cost of the Strategy (**Total £490,000**); and
- Police Scotland's View.

He then opened up the meeting for any questions elected Members may have, during which the following points were noted:-

- In response to a question from Councillor Imrie, Mr Moffat confirmed that part of the Edinburgh Pilot was to retain a Strategic 30MPH Network and that any move towards 20MPH limits would require legislation, which would also apply to Midlothian
- Councillor Baxter highlighted that the issue of 20MPH Speed Zones had been raised through the Petitions Committee, specifically in relation to Lasswade and sought clarification on what advice Members could give to constituents who raised this matter at relevant Surgeries. During a detailed response on this question, Mr Moffat highlighted that it was essential to introduce a strategy throughout Midlothian and that research had shown that to apply a 20MPH limit within Lasswade at this time would not rectify the situation.
- In response to a question from Councillor de Vink on how this Project would be funded, Mr Moffat confirmed that costs had been detailed amounting to £490,000 to allow for the introduction of 20 mph areas across Midlothian in line with the guidance from Transport Scotland. The cost of this project would require to be funded from the General Services Capital Plan. This was likely to be spread over the financial years 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 should a decision be taken to carry out all initial three phases. The cost of any proposals would require to be considered alongside other competing General Services Capital Plan Projects being assessed by the Council.

The borrowing costs were estimated at, £29,400 in total and would be phased between financial years in line with the anticipated spend. This would be added to future years revenue budgets.

It was noted that there were ongoing maintenance costs in the order of £5,000 associated with the new road infrastructure to support the introduction of 20MPH areas.

Thereafter the Director, Resources, thanked Mr Moffat for his very informative presentation and confirmed that a report on this subject would be submitted to the December Council meeting for consideration.

The Seminar terminated at 3.05pm.



