

## CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

### MINUTES OF THE SERVICES CABINET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD AT COMMITTEE ROOM 3, CIVIC CENTRE, SWANSEA ON  
MONDAY, 27 JULY 2015 AT 2.00 PM

**PRESENT:** Councillor V M Evans (Chair) Presided

| <b>Councillor(s)</b>  | <b>Councillor(s)</b> | <b>Councillor(s)</b> |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| A M Cook<br>C R Doyle | P Lloyd<br>R V Smith | T M White            |

#### **External Representatives:**

Andrea Gordon (Guide dogs for the Blind)  
Brendan Campbell (SAFE)  
Mark Stone, Jason Stone & Peter Brock (SAFE & RNIB).

#### **Officers:**

B George - Transport Strategy Officer  
S Woon - Democratic Services Officer

#### 13 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors U C Clay, N J Davies and G J Tanner.

#### 14 **DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS.**

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, the following interests were declared:

Councillor V M Evans – Personal – Agenda as a whole – employed by First Great Western.

Councillor P Lloyd – Personal – Minute no. 16 – City and County of Swansea Disability Champion.

#### 15 **MINUTES.**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Services Cabinet Advisory Committee held on 22 June, 2015 be accepted as a correct record.

#### 16 **PEOPLE AND PAVEMENTS - DISCUSSIONS WITH RELEVANT DISABILITY GROUPS. (VERBAL)**

The Chair invited all attendees to introduce themselves.

Ben George, Transport Strategy Officer, provided an update in respect of the 'Pavements are for People' policy.

He stated that the Policy had been adopted by Council in 2011 and had been supplemented with Appendices over time.

He reported that the Policy contained six Appendices, two of which he had been directly involved. He stated that the Policy had not been updated since 2011.

He referred to the problems that can be caused by obstructions caused by trade waste wheelie bins and signs on highways such as A-Frames. He also referred to the issues associated with indiscriminate parking on pavements.

He went on to detail the areas of work that had been progressed in respect of design guidance for shared use space and the need to ensure consistency and co-ordination within Council Departments and for Councils in Wales to adhere to the same set of standards.

The following issues were raised by Representatives of the Access Group and Councillors:

- It was not clear which Officer 'owns' the policy within the Council.
- The Policy is not formally recognised by departments. When asked for which policies the departments reference on various issues, the Pavements for People policy is not cited by Council Officers.
- The Policy is not detailed enough in terms of its critical thresholds. It would be preferable for the policy to state explicitly what widths are required in respect of obstructions, shared use etc.
- Lack of Council enforcement. A-frames are widely used across the City & County of Swansea and are regularly causing an obstruction.
- It was not clear within the policy how to report faults and infringements.
- The Police do not enforce against vehicles parking on footways.

In response to a question, the Transport Strategy Officer stated that the technical policy references within the 'Pavements Are for People' policy are largely set at a national level. It is considered to be more appropriate to reference these policies and guides rather than to quote them verbatim. This is because national policy changes from time to time and would therefore risk the policy being out of date and non-compliant; this approach allows the Councils officers to preserve the aims of the Pavements are for People policy, whilst ensuring it is not out of step with the latest technical advice. That said, there were some absolute requirements which may be helpful to cite in the appendices to the report (i.e. what is the minimum width beyond which the footway is considered to be obstructed).

A discussion ensued regarding updating the appendices to address the following issues:

- Updates in statutory guidance and requirement;
- To make explicit within the document how infringements are to be reported;
- Clarify the Police position on footway parking;

**AGREED** that:

- a) The Transport Strategy Officer circulate the latest version of the policy, (adopted by Council in 2011), along with its revised appendices;
- b) Mark Thomas, Group Leader, Traffic, liaise with the Police to provide advice with regards to footway obstructions and report back to the Committee;
- c) Aled Jones, License and Enforcement Officer, to provide report to the Committee regarding:
  - The number of enforcements and site visits as a result of obstructions per year.
  - What powers the Council has to prevent and enforce against obstruction.
  - Provide a policy for the consistent placement of A-frame signs.
  - Are the sign owners explicitly aware that they are liable for injuries caused by their signs?
  - How can infringements and faults be best reported to the Council because the perception is that many of the reports go unattended?

The Chair thanked the Transport Strategy Officer for his informative presentation.

17 **WORKPLAN 2015-2016.**

**AGREED** that the Work Plan 2015-2016 be noted.

The meeting ended at 2.57 pm

**CHAIR**