

Policy & Service Review Scrutiny Committee



Call In

Date	15 February 2007
Venue	Town Hall, Lytham St Annes
Committee members	Raymond Norsworthy (Chairman) Martin Taylor (Vice-Chairman) Stephen Carpenter, Elizabeth Clarkson, Peter Hardy, John Longstaff, Elizabeth Oades, Dawn Prestwich, Fabian Wilson
Other Councillors	Timothy Ashton, Harold Butler, John Coombes, Patricia Fieldhouse, Alfred Jealous, Barbara Pagett, William Thompson,
Officers	Ian Curtis, Clare Platt, Tracy Scholes, John Cottam, Andrew Shore, Lyndsey Lacey, Hazel Wood, Richard Wood, Annie Womack
Others	Members of the Public

1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any personal/prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct adopted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

2. Substitute members

The following substitution was reported under council procedure rule 25.3:

Councillor Peter Hardy substituted for Councillor Maxine Chew

3. Call In request - joint use of promenade path

The meeting was convened to discuss a call in request made by ten councillors in accordance with the Constitution. The request related to an individual cabinet decision made on 25 January which sought to allow and promote the shared use of Lytham Promenade for both pedestrians and cyclists.

Councillor Raymond Norsworthy (Chairman) explained the background to the item and made reference to the call-in procedure. An extract of the agenda item and the relevant cabinet minute was circulated with the agenda.

Councillor William Thompson was invited to speak as a representative of the group of councillors requesting the call-in. Councillor Thompson suggested that the group felt that the decision taken was not in the interests of the inhabitants of the borough. The group was of the view that there should have been appropriate consultation with members of the public who were frequent users of the path and outlined his reasons for the proposed segregation between cyclists and pedestrians. He urged the committee to consider referring the matter to Council to enable a full debate on the matter to take place.

Councillor Thompson displayed photographs at the meeting depicting the width of path from various areas along Lytham promenade. He stressed that the width of Lytham promenade varied and at certain points was fairly restrictive thus endangering both pedestrians and cyclists alike.

Councillor Tim Ashton (Portfolio Holder for Streetscene) explained his reasoning behind the decision. He added that he was confident with the decision taken in that he had taken an informed view on the matter as outlined in the report.

The Chairman enquired if the decision had been made within the powers and remit of the Streetscene Portfolio Holder even though it could be described as a change in policy as a result of previous policy committee deliberations. Ian Curtis confirmed the position.

The Chairman also asked if the Portfolio Holder had given correct and sufficient notice warning to all members of the council, that he was about to consider the issue. Tracy Scholes confirmed the position.

Members enquired whether a record of accidents was kept. Mr Shore indicated to date there were no reported accidents within that area and as such no records were kept. The committee also asked if there were any laws to prohibit cycling along the promenade. Mr Curtis addressed this matter making reference to the council's ability to make byelaws if desired and the White Paper which would make it easier for local authorities to enact byelaws.

Councillor Carpenter suggested to the committee that the make up of the promenade was sub standard and enquired about the feasibility of obtaining funds for its upgrade. Councillor Ashton agreed with his sentiments and gave an assurance that he would look into this matter.

The Chairman enquired whether it would be possible to review the situation annually. He also asked if it would be possible to enforce the use of cycle bells and require dog owners to use short leads whilst exercising their dogs. This matter was addressed by Mr Curtis. Councillor Ashton also advised the committee that the Safe Cycling Group offer free bells to cyclists on request.

Following a full debate the committee RESOLVED to take no further action on the call-in request based on the fact that the committee was satisfied that the Portfolio Holder had made an informed decision on the matter and that the decision was in the general interests of the inhabitants of the borough.

(Councillors Stephen Carpenter, Peter Hardy, Elizabeth Oades and John Longstaff requested that their names be recorded as having voted against the above decision)
