

## **MINUTE EXTRACT**

### **BUSINESS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 29 NOVEMBER 2017**

#### **35 NOTICE OF MOTION: MAKING MORE TIME FOR PEDESTRIANS**

The Interim Assistant Director: Law and Governance reported that at the meeting of the Council held on 16 October, 2017 (minute 68 (3) refers), the following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist and seconded by Councillor Chris Carubia was referred by the Mayor to this Committee for consideration –

#### **MAKING MORE TIME FOR PEDESTRIANS**

“Council notes that National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) recently began a consultation on creating an environment in which people are more active... <https://www.nice.org.uk/news/article/local-councils-should-make-it-easier-for-people-with-disabilities-to-be-active-says-nice>

In raising this issue, it argued that active travel will help to prevent a range of chronic health conditions, leading to savings for the NHS and society at large.

Its general aim - to make it as easy as possible for people to walk, cycle or use other forms of active travel rather than making short journeys by car - would fit well with the aims of this Council and strategies being adopted by the Liverpool City Region.

Council recognises that whilst NICE is not expected to report upon the results of its latest study until the end of March 2018, the report contained ideas that can be considered in the meantime.

As NICE suggested that Councils should ensure that crossings with signals give enough time to cross the road, this Council requests officers to report on how extending the time allocated to crossing the road can be achieved so that the needs of pedestrians, wheelchair users and the elderly can be better addressed.”

In accordance with Standing Order 7 (6), Councillor Gilchrist had been invited to attend the meeting in order for him to be given an opportunity to explain the Motion.

Councillor Gilchrist elaborated on the motion and referred to a couple of specific sites where it might be helpful to adjust the timings at crossings.

The Strategic Commissioner for Environment commented upon the positive nature of the motion. He informed the meeting that there were clear technical design standards and guidance governing the time periods for all puffin, toucan and traffic light crossings. This could be tackled in a generic or a site specific manner, timings were adjusted if there were particular concerns at a specific site. The issues for traffic engineers were to ensure junctions were working at capacity, maintaining traffic flows and avoiding unnecessary build-ups whilst maintaining sufficient times for pedestrians to safely cross roads. He suggested that a more detailed note on the issue could be provided for Members.

A Member suggested that Members could flag up with the Highways Service when they had particular concerns over a specific site.

**Resolved (unanimously) – That the motion be noted and referred to officers in Highways for a more detailed report to be provided on the issue.**