

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

18 JULY 2007

STATEMENT OF THE BUSINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR JOHN FORT

HIGHWAYS

Road Safety Grant

Changes to the national arrangements for safety cameras have seen the integration of the associated funding into the Local Transport Plan (LTP) system from the beginning of this financial year 2007/08. As a result, the County Council has been allocated a specific road safety grant of just under £2.5M for this financial year with a similar amount confirmed for 2008/09. Indicative funding allocations of like amounts have been published by the Department for Transport (DfT) for 2009/10 and 2010/11. The grant funding is in addition to that received through the LTP process and is divided into approximately 80% revenue funding and 20% capital funding. The capital funding has been allocated towards the delivery of extra schemes through the LTP prioritisation processes and the revenue funding will be spent in accordance with an action plan that was agreed by the York and North Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership '95 Alive' at its Steering Group meeting held in May. The action plan has been developed in accordance with the 95 Alive Road Safety Strategy and contains a wide range of initiatives all aimed at reducing the number of deaths and serious injuries on our roads. It contains actions such as enhanced road safety publicity and information campaigns, a significant expansion of our Theatre in Education activities in schools, the creation of a Children's Traffic Club, the provision of driver, rider and pedestrian skills training schemes and the creation of a partnership fund that partners can bid for funding for road safety activities. It is anticipated that the activities in the action plan will go a long way towards achieving our newly adopted Local Area Agreement stretch target for reducing deaths and serious injuries and our 95 Alive target for reducing road deaths.

Scarborough Decriminalised Parking Enforcement

The County Council has received approval from the Department for Transport (DfT) to introduce decriminalised parking enforcement (DPE) in the Scarborough district from 30 July 2007. Members will be aware that a system of DPE already operates very successfully in the Harrogate district. The introduction of the DPE scheme will see the responsibility for enforcement of yellow line waiting restrictions in the Scarborough District transfer from North Yorkshire Police to the County Council. The scheme will be administered by Scarborough Borough Council and enforced by parking attendants employed by the Borough Council. A leaflet explaining the changes will be sent to all residents in the Scarborough district prior to the implementation of DPE. The income from fines and on-street parking charges will be re-invested in the

effective operation of the DPE system in accordance with national guidelines which require the scheme to be self-financing and any surplus monies will be spent on traffic related matters in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The DPE scheme will therefore result in a reduced level of abuse of waiting restrictions with associated benefits for the safe and efficient movement of traffic across the whole of the district of Scarborough.

A19 Riccall Roundabout and the A19 Study in Selby

Funding for safety improvements is targeted at locations with a poor accident history in accordance with the County Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP) and, given the much improved safety record at the A19 Riccall Roundabout (there have been no personal injury accidents over the last five years), the roundabout proposal has now been removed from the integrated transport capital programme to allow funding to be directed at locations with a significantly worse accident history. However, an enhanced maintenance scheme is currently being implemented at the A19 / Main Street junction which includes improvements to the existing road markings and signs to further highlight the presence of the junction and to reduce vehicle speeds.

A wide ranging traffic study is now well underway for the section of the A19 through Selby district including Riccall. The aim of the study is to identify safety, congestion and economic regeneration related improvements on the A19 for consideration for future LTP or development related funding. Feedback has been sought and received from a wide range of stakeholders on the current and future safety and congestion issues in light of accident records, traffic flows, speed surveys, development proposals and site observations. The study will be completed in September 2007 and local members will then be briefed on the study outcomes before a report is considered at the November meeting of the Selby Area Committee.

PLANNING

Regional Spatial Strategy

At previous meetings of the County Council's Members have been advised of the Regional Assembly's progress in preparing the Regional Spatial Strategy and its submission to the Government.

A Panel, appointed by the Secretary of State, considered the draft proposals at an Examination in Public in Leeds last autumn.

Their report was published in May and has supported the overall spatial strategy in draft RSS. The Panel have recognised that the focus for economic and housing growth will be in West Yorkshire, have supported regeneration in South Yorkshire and the Humber Estuary, and the need for continuing restraint on housing growth in rural areas, such as North Yorkshire, linked to a greater emphasis on meeting local needs in these areas.

The Secretary of State will publish proposed modifications to the draft Regional Spatial Strategy in September and these will be subject to consultation. Final RSS will be issued by the Secretary of State early in 2008.

Planning for a Sustainable Future: White Paper

In May the Government published its White Paper on planning, setting out a programme of proposed reforms to the planning system to be taken forward over the next three years. The proposals reflect the recommendations of the Barker and Eddington reports into planning and transport.

The White Paper focuses on the need to improve the way in which proposals for key infrastructure development are handled. To this end the Paper proposes that national policy statements should be prepared for key infrastructure sectors, such as energy and transport. This will provide the framework for a national Infrastructure Planning Commission which will determine planning applications for nationally significant transport, water, waste and energy developments. The White Paper also proposes changes to the Local Development Framework system and measures to streamline the handling of minor planning applications.

The County Council will be submitting its response to the proposals before the closing date for comments in August.

County Councillor John Fort
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