

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

23 JULY 2008

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

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Detrunking of the A63 and A65

As you may be aware the Highways Agency (HA) is seeking to detrunk both the A63 and A65 roads in North Yorkshire by the end of September this year. To achieve this the HA must put the necessary legal procedures in place by the end of this month.

Currently the County Council has a holding objection to the proposal for both roads and the HA have now tabled various offers and commitments relative to the concerns by the County Council.

Much of what has been put forward is in the form of funding for the ongoing maintenance of the routes and for the staffing and maintenance of the swing bridge at Selby.

The most notable offer relates to the construction of a roundabout at Barlby at the junction of the A19 and A63. The HA had been proposing alternative solutions to address community and County Council concerns about the junction. However they have now confirmed a roundabout is the right solution and have offered the County Council the funds to construct one.

The Director has advised local members of the position and asked for comments so that a decision can be made as to whether the County Council's objection should be withdrawn. If the objection is not withdrawn the HA will proceed to public inquiry.

Bedale – Aiskew – Leeming Bar Bypass

Following the endorsement of the Bedale – Aiskew - Leeming Bypass by the Regional Transport Board, that I reported to you last time, the Executive have now approved the development of a major schemes business case. The business case will be considered by the Executive prior to submission for funding assessment by the Department for Transport.

In moving the bid process forward a detailed approval programme has been introduced that requires approval from the Executive at a number of key stages through the development of the scheme. This will ensure any risks to the County Council are fully assessed and considered.

Winter Maintenance Review

For the past nine months a Task Group from the Transport and Telecommunications Overview & Scrutiny Committee has been carrying out an in-depth review of the County Council's Winter Maintenance Service. The review has looked in detail at the way the service is provided in North Yorkshire and compared this with practices in other Local Authority areas. Significant consultation has also taken place with the public, Parish Councils and the local Area Committees. The final report was presented to the Executive on 08 July 2008.

The report was welcomed by the Executive as being a comprehensive and well presented document and it resolved that the Executive Members would now consider the recommendations with a view to determining proposals for future policy. The recommendations included ensuring consistency in the relative priority of gritting routes across the County, improving the treatment of pedestrian areas in severe weather conditions and giving clear direction on the timing of treatments.