

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

19 MAY 2010

STATEMENT OF THE HIGHWAYS AND PLANNING SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR JOHN FORT BEM

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Highway changes

On 1 April 2010, North Yorkshire County Council became directly responsible for duties and powers relating to its role as Highway Authority within the urban areas of Harrogate and Knaresborough.

These changes will ensure that all communities in the Harrogate borough receive highway and transportation services in the same way. Staff from both authorities worked together to make the transfer of services seamless and keep the impact on residents and highway users to a minimum.

Some transport related functions will remain with Harrogate Borough Council. The table, below, clarifies which Authority is now responsible for key areas.

Highway and transport functions remaining with Harrogate Borough Council	Highway and transport functions transferring to North Yorkshire County Council
Car parks and car parking enforcement Parking permits Concessionary fares Street cleansing Street naming Taxi licensing Planting areas	Road and footway repairs Highway improvements Road safety Streetworks co-ordination Traffic signals Street lighting Traffic calming Lining and signing Highway information relating to searches Grass cutting and trees within the highway Gully cleansing Winter gritting Road safety relating to events on the highway Road closures Skips on the highway
Telephone: existing numbers apply, or call the main switchboard 01423 500600	Telephone: 0845 8727374

Winter Damage to the Highway Network

Members will all be aware of the significant damage that has taken place on the highway network as a result of the severe winter weather. The current estimated cost of dealing with the damage is £19.5m and this may rise as weathered sections of road continue to deteriorate. Emergency repairs have been carried out using the £2m made available by Members and a further £2.5m has been awarded to the County Council by Government to address winter damage. A programme of additional highway maintenance schemes is now being developed utilising this funding as well as existing funding that is being redirected from other areas of work such as bridges and the Integrated Transport programme.

LTP3 Development

The development of our third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) is continuing and is on track for a final version to be considered by the Council at the December 2010 meeting.

You will be aware that we are currently consulting the public, Parish Councils and other stakeholders on a 'Consultation Draft LTP3'. This consultation started at the beginning of May and is due to continue until the end of July. The LTP is one of the key policy documents for the County Council and sets out how we will deliver transport services in the County for the next five years. All Members will have received details of the consultation and I would urge you to consider the draft LTP3 and pass your comments to staff in the Business and Environmental Services directorate.

A684 Bedale, Aiskew, Leeming Bar Bypass

I am pleased to inform Members that the Department for Transport (DfT) has announced Programme Entry status for the A684 Bedale, Aiskew, Leeming Bar Bypass scheme. This is a significant step forward in the approval process and means the DfT expects to fund the scheme subject to available of funds, costs remaining the same, and the relevant planning permission being obtained. The next stages of the approval process are normally Conditional Approval, once the necessary legal powers are in place and Full Approval, once final supplier prices have been secured.

An extensive public consultation was carried out in the autumn 2009 when 93% of those responded supported the proposals. The planning application for the scheme was submitted in March and this is currently in the planning consultation period. The Executive has given approval to progress the Compulsory Purchase Order and Side Road Orders and these are being progressed in consultation with the Government Office. The scheme is still on budget and on track for a start in 2012/13.

PLANNING

Minerals and Waste Development Framework

Following extensive review, project planning work and discussions with Government Office, a new Minerals and Waste Development Framework Project Plan has been approved. The agreed project plan provides for the preparation of new Minerals and Waste Core Strategy documents and it is intended that both documents will be formally adopted by the end of 2013. Work has already commenced on the preparation of the Minerals Core Strategy and an initial public consultation exercise, inviting views on the scope and content of the strategy was launched on 16 April 2010. Work on a Waste Core Strategy is expected to commence in Spring 2010.

As part of the project planning work, a new Minerals and Waste Development Framework member working group, Chaired by County Councillor John Blackburn, has been established to help ensure that Members can contribute to preparation of the strategies. The group met for the first time on 14 April and will continue to meet throughout the work programme.

JOHN FORT