

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

20 JULY 2011

STATEMENT OF THE HIGHWAYS AND PLANNING SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR GARETH DADD

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND (LSTF)

In early June we submitted Expressions of Interest to the (DfT) for two £5m bids into the Local Sustainable Transport Fund. This is a government fund for transport packages that boost local economies whilst reducing carbon emissions.

Following discussions with the district councils, the National Parks and other interest groups the Executive agreed to submit our maximum permitted two Expressions of Interest and selected a Harrogate Sustainable Transport Package and an East Coast Tourist Economy Package based primarily around Whitby.

Both packages consist of the delivery of a Park and Ride site and services and initiatives to promote and improve public transport, cycling, walking and other travel awareness type initiatives.

Final bids need to be submitted to the DfT in February next year with a decision expected in May. Should we be successful I believe that this will deliver some much needed improvements in these areas. However we need to be realistic and with only £560m to be shared amongst the 80 or so local transport authorities in England there are going to be winners and losers. Unfortunately should we not be successful with either bid there is little chance of us being able to deliver much of the packages in the short to medium term, though of course we will continue to investigate all possible funding sources.

CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) currently operates in the Harrogate and Scarborough districts where parking restrictions are enforced by the Borough Council on behalf of the County Council instead of the Police. Extending CPE to other parts of the County would provide improved enforcement with traffic management and road safety benefits. Members received an update note on the Countywide CPE project last month.

A consultation exercise is currently underway which will help us understand people's opinions and the parking issues that matter to them. All County Councillors have been sent a copy of the questionnaire which has also gone to key stakeholders including District and Parish Councils. The consultation will run for 12 weeks until 5 September 2011 and can be completed through the website (www.northyorks.gov.uk/parkingsurvey)

A number of interlinked work streams continue to be progressed in collaboration with the District Councils and the Police. These include a review of parking related Traffic Regulation Orders in the five districts where CPE does not currently operate, the development of a parking strategy for the County Council and the testing of different models of operation. The timetable for the project is as follows:

Stage	Timeframe
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Consultation	June – Sept 2011
Draft final business case	November 2011
Approval of business case by partner authorities	November 2011 – March 2012
Application to Department for Transport	April 2012
Operation commences	October 2012

The implementation date has been moved back from April to October 2012 to build in sufficient time for the approval of the business case by all partner authorities. A report will go to the Executive ahead of the application to the Department for Transport in April 2012. Members will be kept informed of the progress of the project through further update notes and a report will go to the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee in September 2011 detailing the results of the consultation.

WINTER MAINTENANCE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The County Council recognises the important role that Parish and Town Councils can play in enhancing winter maintenance across the County by clearing areas which would not normally be treated as part of the County Councils' winter maintenance policy. I am pleased to report that earlier this month BES Executive Members considered a report on the outcome of a trial that was carried out with a selection of Parish and Town Councils last winter.

Whilst not all parish and town councils who were asked to take part in the trial did so, the response from those that did was positive. It is clear that the scheme is not suitable for all Parishes and communities across the County. However in the Parishes where enough volunteers have been available it has provided significant local benefits through clearing snow from footways and improving access for local residents.

Following from the pilot, we have now agreed to make the scheme available to all Parish and Town Councils. The scheme will be cost neutral to the County Council, and Parish/Town Councils wishing to take part in the scheme will be required to fund the purchase of equipment and salt supplies.

Several concerns regarding insurance cover were raised as part of the pilot. Public and employee liability insurance is required by Parish and Town Councils, which is something that most parish/town councils already have. Officers will provide training and therefore if Parish Councils act in a reasonable and responsible manner, then potential liability claims from third parties using cleared highways/footways will rest with the County Council as the Highway Authority.

Officers are currently preparing an information sheet for Parish Councils. This will include information on costs of the scheme and insurance cover. The training of volunteers is planned to commence in September, in readiness for the forthcoming winter season.

GARETH DADD