

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

15 FEBRUARY 2012

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

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

A684 Bedale Aiskew Leeming Bar Bypass

Members will recall that in September 2011 a Best and Final Offer Bid was submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) setting out the funding request for the A684 Bedale, Aiskew, Leeming Bar Bypass scheme. The DfT subsequently agreed to fund the scheme but at lower funding allocation than that requested by the County Council.

At the meeting of the Executive on 17 January members agreed to accept the DfT funding offer and take the scheme forward. A letter to this effect has been sent to the DfT and we have now received a letter of confirmation that the scheme has been granted Programme Entry status.

The scheme will now be progressed through the statutory process. The earliest anticipated start of construction is Autumn 2014. The scheme will improve access to the Dales and will provide a boost to the tourism economy in the area. I can assure Members that the Executive will be closely monitoring the estimated costs of the scheme to ensure that it continues to represent value for money going forward.

Local Sustainable Transport Fund

Work is ongoing and nearing conclusion on 2 Local Sustainable Transport Fund bids. These bids are focussed on Whitby and the Esk Valley and Harrogate, and if successful could secure up to £9million of funding for transport measures in these areas over the next 3 years.

The bids were approved by the Executive on the 10 January and they will be submitted to the Department for Transport by 24 February. It is anticipated that we will find out whether the bids have been successful in June this year.

Irton Tree Lessons Learned

At the October 2011 meeting I advised you that I had requested that an investigation be carried out into the Irton Tree to see what lessons could be learned and how we could reduce the likelihood of a similar occurrence happening again.

I can inform members that the results of the investigation were reported to the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 25 January 2012. The report contains an eight point action plan aimed at reducing the likelihood of issues relating to trees in particular, and insurance claims more generally, following a course similar to that of the Irton tree.

Review of the criteria for highway maintenance schemes

I am pleased to advise members that the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee completed its review of the criteria for highway maintenance scheme identification, assessment and prioritisation on 25 January 2012.

The review looked at all aspects of the methodology used to identify, assess and prioritise carriageway maintenance schemes and a report was produced which the Committee felt offered an 'excellent explanation and aide memoire for Members'. The report highlights the point in the process where Members can identify locations for consideration but stresses the importance of the objective officer scheme assessment and prioritisation.

GARETH DADD