

North Yorkshire County Council

16 MAY 2012

Statement of the Highways and Planning Services Portfolio Holder

County Councillor Gareth Dadd

Highways and Transportation

Highways Maintenance Contract - HMC 2012

I am delighted to advise Members that the HMC 2012 contract with Ringway 'went live' at midnight on Saturday 31/Sunday 1 April 2012. Thanks to a phenomenal effort from a team of over 60 different people the transition from the previous contract with Balfour Beatty to Ringway over that 'handover' weekend went extremely well. I look forward to being able to provide Members with a further update once the contract has properly bedded in. Not only would I like to commend Officers for their efforts, but I'd also like to record the professionalism and commitment shown by Balfour Beatty right up until the end of the former contract in ensuring their contractual duties were fully undertaken.

Street Lighting Energy Reduction Programme

In July 2011, the Council's Executive approved a four year plan to reduce street lighting energy consumption. The proposal will see the street lighting energy bill reduced by almost £400k per annum by 2016. This requires an initial capital investment of £200k/year for 2012/13 up to 2015/16. By year 3 of implementation of the proposal it is anticipated that the saving will start to outweigh the capital requirement.

I issued a briefing note to all Members in mid March outlining the programme and consultation process being adopted. Implementation involves the switching off of selective street lights, agreed through the consultation process, from midnight to 5.00am. I am pleased to inform Members that consultation on the energy reduction programme has been carried in the Bilton, Woodfield and New Park Wards of Harrogate. I would like to thank Councillor Webber for his support during that process which has identified the selective street lights to be switched off during agreed times of the night. The next area of engagement is the Saltergate Ward of Harrogate. A web site is available for member and public access which identifies a map of the areas that have completed consultation and implementation and those areas selected for consultation in the near future. The map can be accessed at <http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=18232>.

Timber Transport

As part of the work of the North Yorkshire Timber Freight Quality Partnership, a draft timber routes map has been developed to outline proposed timber haulage routes and production volumes, from forests across the County. The map is a valuable tool in helping to inform local communities about the impact of timber extraction in their area whilst also providing information to the timber industry on what routes to use and how to improve communication and partnership working with the County Council. A public consultation on the map concluded on the 13 April. Members of the partnership are currently working through the responses and the map will be launched this summer.

Following the Richmondshire Area Committee in early April, I was asked to consider the implementation of a permanent weight restriction in Gayle, near Hawes, to help reduce the local impact of timber haulage from a nearby forest. In view of the work that the Freight Quality Partnership has been undertaking around the routes map and also in developing conditions for haulage to reduce the impact on the local community and highway network, the weight restriction has not been introduced but the route has been given 'excluded' status on the routes map. The freight partnership, chaired by Jeremy Walker, is working closely with all parties to develop a long term sustainable solution to timber haulage in this area, taking in to consideration the needs of both the community and the timber industry.

Gareth Dadd