

NORTH YORKSHIRE  
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

WEDNESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> MAY 2012

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION - PROTOCOL FOR CONSULTATION  
WITH THE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

## 1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out and agree a protocol for establishing those Highways and Transportation schemes and policies that will include the Local Access Forum in the consultation process.
- 1.2 Based on the proposed protocol the report will further set out a list of schemes and policies which it is recommended that the LAF be consulted on in the current financial year (2012/2013)

## 2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Barrie Mason (Assistant Director – Highways and Transportation) attended the November 2011 meeting of the LAF. At this meeting there was a wide ranging discussion about the work of the Highways and Transportation Service Unit (H&T) of the County Council. Included in this was a discussion on how H&T could improve the engagement on proposed transport improvement schemes and transport strategies and policies which fall within the remit of the LAF.
- 2.2 At the meeting Barrie agreed to bring a further report to the LAF setting out proposals for identifying schemes and policies that would be the subject of consultation with the LAF.
- 2.3 The 2012/2013 programme of transport improvement schemes and transport policy work has now been approved by the Corporate Director of Business and Environmental Services. This report therefore sets out the proposed protocol for consultation and suggests those schemes and policies that will be the subject of consultation with the LAF in the current financial year.

### 3.0 PROTOCOL FOR CONSULTATION WITH THE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM - HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

- 3.1 The annual programme of highway and transport improvement schemes is approved by March prior to the start of the financial year. In order to ensure that the Local Access Forum (LAF) is adequately consulted on proposed highway and transport improvements **an officer from Highways and Transportation (H&T) will attend the meeting of the LAF (or appropriate sub group) following approval of the annual programme to discuss the details of schemes.** The officer will discuss brief details of the schemes and suggest those which the LAF might wish to be consulted on. The suggestion will be based on the scale the impact of each scheme on the Rights of Way network. In general terms for schemes which could potentially **remove, sever or result in a significant (over approx 1km) diversion to one or more Rights of Way** consultation with the LAF will be appropriate. The LAF may however wish to take a view on whether they wish to be consulted on schemes with a less significant impact on a more important or heavily used Right of Way. It is estimated that this overall approach could result in the LAF being consulted on up to 5 schemes per year.

### 4.0 PROTOCOL FOR CONSULTATION WITH THE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM - HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

- 4.1 The County Council has a number of highways and transportation strategies and policies. From time to time these are reviewed and renewed or new strategies and policies added. Appropriate user groups are consulted before adoption of new or renewed strategies and policies, however not all of these are relevant to the remit of the LAF.
- 4.2 The programme for the preparation of a renewed or new strategy or policy is identified in the annual H&T Service Plan which, like the annual programme, is approved by March prior to the start of the financial year. The County Council consults widely on all transport strategies and policies and will ensure that the LAF are included on the list of consultative bodies. However, in order to ensure that the Local Access Forum (LAF) is made aware of those which may have a significant impact on the work of the LAF or on the Rights of Way network **an officer from Highways and Transportation (H&T) will attend the meeting of the LAF (or appropriate sub group) following approval of the Service Plan to discuss the details of forthcoming strategy and policies changes and agree those which the LAF should to be included in the consultation process.** The officer will discuss brief details of each of the

policies and suggest which the LAF may wish to give greatest priority to. It is estimated that this approach would result in the LAF wishing to comment on 2 or 3 policies per year.

## 5.0 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The highways authority is as a statutory consultee on highway matters relating to planning applications and this function is carried out by officers from the Highways and Transportation service Unit. The authorities responsible for consultation on Planning Applications are the Local Planning Authorities (District Councils, National Park Authorities and NYCC (for Minerals, Waste and determining County Council applications)). It is the responsibility of the Local Planning Authorities to consult where appropriate with the LAF. For this reason it is not appropriate for officers from Highways and Transportation to consult with the LAF on highway responses to planning applications

## 6.0 2012/2013 TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

- 6.1 The Integrated Transport Capital Programme for 2012/2013 has a value of approximately £1.65m. Of this approximately £1.1m is in the form of block allocations including Accident Investigation and Prevention (AIP) schemes and relatively small scale Signs, Lines and Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) schemes. The AIP allocations are generally used on schemes targeted at high risk accidents sites and where fatal accidents occur. As such schemes are identified and developed throughout the year. Should any schemes meet the criteria set out in section 3.1 above the LAF will be included in the scheme consultation process. As with the AIP allocation schemes to be funded from the Signs Lines and TRO's allocation are identified throughout the year generally in response to traffic problems identified by the public and parish councils. It is highly unlikely that any of these types of schemes will have any significant impact on the rights of way network.
- 6.2 None of the specifically named schemes included in the current transport improvements programme meet the criteria for consultation with the LAF as set out in section 3.1 above.
- 6.3 The 2012/2013 programme also includes a £200k allocation as match funding towards the County Councils Harrogate Sustainable Transport Package – Local Sustainable Transport Fund bid. This bid includes an allocation to improve cycle routes in Harrogate and Knaresborough. A decision from the Department of Transport on whether they will be supporting this bid is expected in late May / early June. Should the bid be

successful the County Council will include the LAF in the consultation on any schemes which meet the criteria set out in 3.2 above.

6.4 The County Council is also progressing with the design and future implementation of the Bedale Aiskew and Leeming Bar bypass (BALB). A report on this scheme is included as a later agenda item at today's meeting.

6.5 Members of the LAF will be aware that it is normal practice to consult on all transport improvement schemes. This consultation normally includes rights of way user groups such as The Ramblers Association, The British Horse Society and the Cyclists Touring Club. Regardless of whether the County Council consult with the LAF on an improvement scheme this consultation with user groups will continue.

## 7.0 2012\2013 REVIEW OF TRANSPORT STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

7.1 The current programme for the review and renewal of transport strategies and policies does not include any that are likely to be of specific interest to the LAF.

## 8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no significant financial implications arising from this report. Including the LAF in scheme and policy specific consultations will not add any additional costs the current process. All scheme consultation costs are currently met from the Integrated Transport Capital Programme.

## 9.0 EQUALITIES

9.1 There are no significant Equalities issues arising from this report. All schemes, strategies and policies identified for potential consultation with the LAF have been developed in accordance with the County Council's third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) which has already been the subject to a comprehensive equalities assessment as part of its development in 2010.

Contact:  
Andrew Bainbridge  
Team Leader – Transport Planning  
01609 532382