



**HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
28 OCTOBER 2019**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR B ADAMS (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors S P Roe (Vice-Chairman), T R Ashton, Mrs W Bowkett, C J T H Brewis, Mrs J Brockway, Mrs P Cooper, R Grocock, R A Renshaw, A N Stokes and E W Strengiel

Executive Support Councillor for Highways, Transport and IT, Clio Perraton-Williams attended the meeting as an observer.

Officers in attendance:-

Ellie Baker (Senior Street Warden and Permit Officer), Steve Blagg (Democratic Services Officer), Nicola Cosburn (Asset Manager Commissioner), Nicole Hilton (Assistant Director - Communities), Matt Jones (Parking Services Manager), Ian Kitchen (Strategic Transport Policy Manager), Paul Rusted (Head of Highways Services), Georgina Statham (Highways Liaison Manager), Daniel Steel (Scrutiny Officer) and Trevor Stratton (Assistant Parking Officer)

29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M Brookes.

The Head of Paid Service reported that under the Local Government (Committee and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, she had appointed Councillor T R Ashton to the Committee, in place of Councillor Mrs P Cooper, until further notice and that she had appointed Councillor Mrs P Cooper, in place of Councillor M Brookes, for this meeting only.

30 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest at this stage of the meeting.

**31 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS AND
TRANSPORT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2019**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 September 2019, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**32 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS
AND LEAD OFFICERS**

Officers presented the Green Apple Awards for the Built Environment and Architectural Heritage given to the Council as the "Civil Engineering Gold Winner" for its Lincoln Eastern Bypass Team.

The Committee asked that their compliments should be sent to the Lincoln Eastern Bypass Team.

33 ENGAGEMENT WITH NETWORK RAIL AND RAIL FRANCHISE UPDATE

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, welcomed Phil Dawson, London North Eastern Railway (LNER), Max Taylor, East Midlands Railway (EMR) and Laura Etheridge, East Midlands Railway to the meeting. Paul McKeown, Network Rail, was unable to attend the meeting because his travel arrangements had been affected by flooding. Paul McKeon would respond to any written questions from members.

The Committee received an update on various rail matters in Lincolnshire. Officers stated that the railway representatives were attending to make presentations on their current proposals and respond to questions. Officers updated members on the proposed improvements to Gainsborough Lea Road Station, Spalding Station and improvements to the railway line between Lincoln and Newark not mentioned in the report.

Phil Dawson, LNER, gave a presentation on the proposed changes to LNER's timetables which would improve services to Lincoln.

Comments by the members included:-

- An enquiry was made about the cost of providing two new bridges across the Lincoln to Newark railway line in Lincoln due to future housing development. Phil Dawson stated that he would provide a written response to the member on this matter as he was not involved in this project. The bridges would provide an alternative route for traffic currently held up at the level crossings on Doddington Road and Skellingthorpe Road.
- "Real Time" information on the new Azuma trains was welcomed. Phil Dawson stated that improvements had been made to LNER's "reservation of seats" system and that it was proposing to invest £3b in improving services.
- An enquiry was made about the environmental impact of the proposed timetable changes. Phil Dawson stated that while the proposed improvements to the timetables would mean fewer stops which would help the environment.
- Capacity and recovery were issues on the main line between Edinburgh and London. Phil Dawson stated that capacity issues on this line were a huge challenge. He outlined the improvements being made to overcome these challenges including the "Werrington Grade Separation" at Peterborough, more reliable trains and the introduction of bio-mode trains.
- The provision of a diesel service on the joint line to London by LNER would help those living in South Holland. People in this rural area had problems in getting to services. Phil Dawson stated that this had been examined but had proved

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difficult to implement because of the loss a train on the main line. They were currently examining providing one train a week down the Joint Line and this was likely to be a weekend service. He stated that LNER would examine the effects of increased population growth planned for the South Holland area.

Max Taylor gave a presentation which included details of the new EMR franchise, proposed investment and improved strategic partnerships, including, amongst others, local authorities and businesses. This would lead to improved timetables, more trains, improved ticketing facilities, more rolling stock and additional stations.

Comments by members included:-

- The proposals were welcomed including the removal of one carriage trains, the new timetables and a wish to see the proposed improvements for 2021 brought forward if possible. Max Taylor stated that changing timetables was complex and took time to get right.
- An enquiry was made about making sure the best ticket price could be obtained at the point of sale, or if the customer would have to go back after the event to claim back overpaid ticket money. Max Taylor stated that EMR was reactive in making sure the customer had the best price and their current software only allowed them to be reactive.
- The new services were welcomed. The Skegness to Nottingham service calling at Grantham should coincide with the LNER service to London would be helpful. Max Taylor stated that it was proposed to improve connectivity for all routes and stated that he would visit Skegness to examine the issues at this station.
- EMR was advised to examine the Carlisle to Maryport rail route service to learn about the adoption of stations.

The Chairman, on behalf of members, thanked LNER and EMR for their interesting presentations and hoped that they would come back next year and show what improvements had been made. It was agreed to send the presentations to members.

34 EVENTS AFFECTING THE HIGHWAY NETWORK POLICY

The Committee received a report in connection with Events affecting the Highway Network Policy. A decision was due to be considered by the Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and IT between 30 October and 6 November 2019 and the views of this Committee would be reported to the Executive Councillor as part of his consideration of this item.

Officers stated the replacement of the current policy by this new policy was due to the police no longer able to get involved in the administration of Events because of the

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reduction in personnel and increased costs had necessitated the Council stepping in to provide this service.

Members welcomed the new policy. A member stated that there had been some issues involving a vehicle interfering with the Lincoln 10k race and disabled people having access issues to their homes.

RESOLVED

That the recommendations to the Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and IT, detailed in the report, be supported.

35 HIGHWAYS CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT AND LIAISON STRATEGY

The Committee received a report in connection with the Highways Customer Engagement and Liaison Strategy which outlined what the Council would do to improve public satisfaction levels in the highway service by placing the customers at the heart of the service and taking ownership in everything the highways did and the way it worked.

Comments by members included:-

- A spelling error on line 3, paragraph 7.1 on page 48 of the Strategy. Officers agreed to investigate.
- The public's main interest was in seeing highways repaired. An example of where improved public engagement was needed was in connection with the improvements being made to Nettleham roundabout where there had been little public engagement about the removal of trees in the vicinity of the roundabout. Officers agreed that there was a need for highways to think how it communicated with the public.
- Officers agreed to inform members when it was proposed to update the highways web page. Members noted this information would help Parish Councils.

RESOLVED

That the new Strategy be supported and that the Committee receive a progress report in six months.

36 HIGHWAYS FAULT REPORTING PERFORMANCE

The Committee received a report in connection with the performance of highways fault reporting which highlighted the improvements made and recommendations for future improvements.

Members welcomed the improvements and noted that the new "Confirm" website would provide more functionality and links to the FixmyStreet website which would improve the response to the public.

RESOLVED

That the recommendations for improvement to the highways fault reporting performance be supported and that the Committee receive a progress report in six months.

37 CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2018 TO 2019

The Committee received the standard annual report on Civil Parking Enforcement for 2018/19. The information provided was in accordance with the Statutory Guidance to Local Authorities on the Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions.

Comments by members included:-

- An enquiry about loading issues in Market Place, Westgate, Grantham. Officers stated that the Committee would receive a report on parking issues in Grantham at its meeting on 20 January 2020.
- The annual cost for software had increased. Officers stated that the annual cost had increased and this was due to, amongst others, the increase in the cost of the licence.
- An enquiry was made about whether it was possible to have compulsory "zig-zag" markings outside of schools. Officers stated that most schools did not have enforceable parking zones and a Traffic Regulation Order was required to enforce parking restrictions. Officers stated that the trial of CCTV outside of certain schools was due to finish and the results would be reported to a future meeting.
- Some Blue Badge holders had been given parking fines and this had caused confusion. Officers stated that Blue Badge holders had been issued with parking information and parking enforcement officers had discretion in the issuing of tickets.
- The public should be made aware that parking enforcement did not end at 5pm. Officers stated that evening enforcement was being examined.
- There were parking problems with a pedestrianised area and taxis parking in an area reserved for public parking used by the public to use nearby facilities in Spalding. Officers stated that discussions were on-going with highways to bring these areas up to enforceable standards and South Holland District Council as the licencing granting authority needed to address this problem when it issued taxi licences.

Officers gave a presentation on the information which was available on the Council's website. This included the provision of an interactive map and the number of tickets issued in electoral Divisions.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the comments made by members be noted.
- (b) That the publication of the report on the Council's website be supported.

38 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK

PROGRAMME

The Committee received its Work Programme.

Comments by members included:-

- The Road Safety Partnership report which went to the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee should also be received by this Committee.
- The Lincoln Western Growth Corridor needed to be programmed in the Work Programme.
- Grass verges needed to be converted for more parking to prevent green verges becoming rutted. (This was related to "Footway Parking" in "Future items for consideration" in the report). Officers stated that the Government was examining this matter and it was expected that local authorities would be given the task of enforcement. Members would receive an update on this matter in 2020.

RESOLVED

The Work Programme be noted and updated accordingly.

The meeting closed at 12.45 pm