

Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, Executive Director for Communities

Report to:	Councillor W S Webb, Executive Councillor for Highways and Transport
Date:	04 February 2013
Subject:	Road Classification Policy for Lincolnshire
Decision Reference:	02120
Key decision?	Yes

Summary:

Following changes in 2012 to the national process for classifying roads, this paper sets out a Road Classification Policy for Lincolnshire in line with guidance published by the Department for Transport (DfT).

Recommendation(s):

That the proposed Road Classification Policy for Lincolnshire attached at Appendix A to this report be adopted.

Alternatives Considered:

1. To not adopt the policy would leave the Council open to possible challenge on future classification proposals

Reasons for Recommendation:

To provide a consistent approach to road classification across Lincolnshire in line with DfT guidance and to provide support should classifications be challenged.

1. Background

1.1 The national road classification system dates back to the 1920s. Over the years, this has developed into the current categories of:

- Motorways
- A roads
- B roads
- Classified Unnumbered Roads (known locally as C roads)
- Unclassified roads

- 1.2 Prior to April 2012, any transport authority wishing to change the classification of an existing road (or classify a newly constructed road) was required to complete the necessary paperwork and submit this to the Department of Transport (DfT) for their agreement.
- 1.3 Since April 2012, local transport authorities have been given greater responsibility and they no longer need to seek DfT's consent on such issues (although the Secretary of State does retain the ultimate right to intervene and make a decision if necessary).
- 1.4 DfT has produced guidance to assist transport authorities in their new role. This indicates that authorities should put in place their own policy on road classification which sets out in general terms the approach and processes to be used to ensure consistency and assist in any disputes.
- 1.5 The proposed Road Classification Policy for Lincolnshire is attached at Appendix A. This has been prepared taking into account the guidance provided by DfT.

2. Conclusion

- 2.1 To fulfil the requirements of the DfT Guidance, the policy attached at Appendix A should be adopted.

3. Legal Comments:

The Executive Councillor has the remit to approve the application provided he has the delegated authority of the Leader.

4. Resource Comments:

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

c) Scrutiny Comments

The Highways, Transport and Technology Scrutiny Committee considered the policy on 21st January 2013 and recommended that the Executive Councillor for Highways and Transport approve it for adoption.

d) Policy Proofing Actions Required

The proposed policy is consistent with existing policies of the County Council.

6. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Road Classification Policy for Lincolnshire

7. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Guidance on Road Classification and the Primary Route Network - DfT	www.gov.uk/dft

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