

**HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT
 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
 9 JUNE 2014**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR M BROOKES (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors A G Hagues (Vice-Chairman), M G Allan, D Brailsford, K J Clarke, R A H McAuley, N M Murray, N H Pepper and A H Turner MBE JP

Councillors: R G Davies and R A Renshaw attended the meeting as observers

Officers in attendance:-

Alan Aistrup, Steve Blagg (Democratic Services Officer), Simon Burgess (Communications), Graeme Butler (Project and Technical Support Manager), Paul Coathup (Assistant Director Highways and Transportation), Mike Nicholls (Highways Network Manager) and Louise Tyers (Scrutiny Officer)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor R J Hunter-Clarke.

In accordance with legislation Councillor C J T H Brewis replaced Councillor Mrs A M Newton on the Committee for this meeting only.

2 DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

Councillor D Brailsford requested that a note should be made in the minutes that he had been lobbied in connection with "20's Plenty" (minute 6).

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 APRIL 2014

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 30 April 2014 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND IT AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Paul Coathup announced that a reply was imminent from the Department of Transport in connection with the outcome of Side Road and Compulsory Purchase Orders for the Lincoln Eastern Bypass and for the Lincoln East/West Link and that all Members of the Council would be informed as soon as the reply was received.

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Paul Coathup announced that the Council had submitted an application to the Department of Transport for additional funding from the Surface Condition Pothole Fund and a reply was awaited.

Paul Coathup announced that he had been made a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers. and the Committee placed on record their congratulations to him.

5 QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE - 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2014

Paul Coathup presented a report on Quarter 4 Performance for Highways and Transportation for the period from 1 January to 31 March 2014, explained the reasons for the variation in some of the statistics in the report and responded to comments by the Committee as follows:-

1. The Council had invested significantly in repairs to the road surface but the Highways Asset Plan indicated that investment to maintain the highways was still between £10m and £14m below what was required for the whole asset network. However, based on national statistics the Council was efficient and effective in the use of its resources compared to other local authorities.
2. The Council was in the top quartile for A road maintenance. However, there was a need to address major reconstruction of roads because there had been a gradual deterioration in their condition.
3. Owing to the effects of two bad winters in recent years the B and C road network had deteriorated. However, there would be significant investment this Summer which should reflect in improved performance figures for 2014.
4. The Road Safety Partnership was involved in the investigation of all accidents including when and where they occurred and supported various schemes to reduce the accidents involving young people.
5. In some cases some of the challenging performance target figures had been amended to make them more achievable.
6. The issues in connection with the Grantham Southern Relief Road were explained. The project was on plan there had been a legal challenge to the planning permission from a large landowner. The process of publishing the Side Road Orders was explained. Paul Coathup confirmed that the Council would be able to make a claim to recover the Council's costs and agreed to let the Committee have details of the legal costs incurred by the Council for the project when known.
7. Confirmation of the various Orders for the Lincoln East/West Link and the Lincoln Eastern Bypass from the Department of Transport was imminent and if confirmed the projects could proceed.
8. The Council was on course to bring the Spalding Western Relief Road in line with the performance target.
9. Traffic management measures would be put in place to address the effects of the various traffic schemes proposed for the City of Lincoln and consultation with stakeholders would take place during July.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted and the Committee be sent details of the legal costs incurred by the Council in connection with the Grantham Southern Relief Road when known.

6 SPEED MANAGEMENT IN LINCOLNSHIRE - DRAFT FINAL REPORT

Louise Tyers presented the draft final report of the Speed Management in Lincolnshire Task and Finish Group and subject to the comments of the Committee the report would be submitted to the Executive on 1 July 2014, for approval. "A 20's Plenty for Us Briefing August 2012" paper, was tabled which detailed those local authorities who had implemented or were trialling 20mph Speed Limit Zones.

Councillor M Brookes, Chairman of the Task and Finish Group, thanked the members of the Task and Finish Group and officers who had helped to produce the report and stated that public engagement had been paramount in the production of the final report.

The Committee addressed each recommendation in the report as follows:-

Recommendation 1 – agreed

Recommendation 2 – agreed

Recommendation 3 – agreed to amend to read "+/- 3mph" (not "+/- 5mph" as recommended in the report) with a review six months after implementation. (The Committee, following advice from the officers who had tested +/- 5mph, considered that +/- 5mph was too significant a change)

Recommendation 4 – agreed

Recommendation 5 – agreed (Comments by the Committee included the problems caused by parked cars in the vicinity of schools, whether consultations with cycling and pedestrian groups had taken place, highlighted the different issues posed between rural and urban areas and the use of planning consents to establish 20mph Speed Limit Zones. An "options menu" of speed reduction measures facility would be considered at a future meeting of the Committee).

Recommendation 6 – agreed (Comments by the Committee included the need for partnership working between schools and the Council to address the problems of traffic in the vicinity of a school and that every school should have a School Travel Plan which should be reviewed regularly).

Recommendation 7 – agreed

Recommendation 8 – agreed

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Recommendation 9 – agreed subject to the addition of Community Groups as long as they had third party public liability insurance.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the final draft report of the Speed Management in Lincolnshire Task and Finish Group be supported, subject to the amendments agreed by the Committee.
- (b) That the final report be submitted to the Executive on 1 July 2014, for approval.

7 PROGRESS REPORT ON MAJOR SCHEMES

Paul Coathup presented a report which provided an update of progress made in the delivery of the Major Highway Scheme programme.

Comments made by the Committee included the need for a Transport Strategy to accompany each planning application for a Major Scheme, the "non- motorised" user bridge on Hawthorne Road in connection with the Lincoln Eastern By-Pass was welcomed and the effects of the level crossing on Skellingthorpe Road on traffic movement needed to be addressed.

Paul Coathup responded to comments by the Committee including:-

1. Ideally transport strategies should be developed alongside Local Plans and in a two tier local authority this was made more complicated. Also, the Council had no control over when a developer submitted a major application.
2. The provision of a "non-motorised" user bridge on Hawthorne Road, Lincoln, would prevent "rat running".
3. There was currently no scheme in place to address the Skellingthorpe Road level crossing and only when the construction of the Western Growth corridor took place would the traffic problems in connection with the crossing be addressed.

RESOLVED

That the progress being made on the delivery of the Council's Major highway schemes be noted.

8 ROADWORKS.ORG DEMONSTRATION

Alan Aistrup and Simon Burgess gave a demonstration of the Roadworks.org website which was designed to provide useful information including road works, route planning, bus and rail timetables for the public. The next stage was to examine a communications strategy to promote the information to all Members and the public. Simon Burgess would contact all Members to ascertain if they wished to receive an email alert about the site and added that he would report to a future meeting on its use.

A paper detailing proposals to engage with Members in connection with the highways work programme was tabled. The Committee welcomed this development but emphasised the need for the website to be updated regularly.

Officers stated that the technology was now available to update the website quickly but there was still a need to examine the resource implications.

The Committee supported the tabled proposals for "Member Engagement on Work Programmes" and the website for roadworks.org which would hopefully help to reduce the need for the public to contact the Council to enquire about issues connected with the highway network

RESOLVED

- (a) That the proposals to promote the use of the roadwork.org website be supported.
- (b) That the proposals detailed in the "Member Engagement on Work Programmes", tabled at the meeting, be supported.

9 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Louise Tyers presented a report in connection with the Committee's Work Programme and asked the Committee to let her know if they had any learning and development needs.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Committee's Work Programme be noted and updated accordingly.
- (b) That Members notify Louise Tyers if they had any learning and development needs.

The meeting closed at 12.30 pm