



Meeting	ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY SELECT COMMITTEE	
Date	Monday, 4 July 2005	agenda item number
From:	Cabinet Member for Environment	

REPORT FOR PERIOD APRIL – JUNE 2005

1. Work from the Previous Administration

There are a number of decisions taken by my predecessor that have yet to be reported to this Select Committee which are shown on the **attached Appendix** for completeness.

2. Local Transport Plan 2006/11 – Prioritisation of Major Schemes

The second Local Transport Plans (LTP2) for North Nottinghamshire and Greater Nottingham are due for submission to the Department for Transport (DfT) in July 2005 (Provisional Plan) and March 2006 (Full Plan). The DfT further requires the Highway Authority to identify and prioritise all major schemes over £5m intended to be put forward in the plan period. Indications suggest that it will be extremely unlikely that more than one major scheme will be approved per plan area. Therefore, I have agreed that two major schemes will be identified for the North Nottinghamshire LTP and one in the Greater Nottingham LTP.

Mansfield Bus Station is selected as the LTP2's top priority scheme for North Nottinghamshire. This project meets nearly all the core criteria and has strong support from Mansfield District Council. It is seen as the catalyst for town centre redevelopment and regeneration.

Pleasley Bypass is selected as the second priority scheme. This meets many of the core priorities and provides the second phase of the Mansfield Ashfield Regeneration Route, improving links from the MARR redevelopment areas to the motorway.

In the Greater Nottingham Plan area there is an opportunity to develop comprehensive proposals for Hucknall that include benefits across the whole range of core priorities. The relief of traffic from the town centre, better pedestrian facilities, improved bus priority and greater integration with the tram interchange could potentially be developed as one major scheme.

3. **Community Environmental Scheme, Rookery Park**

The County Council acquired the New Hucknall Colliery Site, Huthwaite for waste disposal in the early 1980s and landfilling and reclamation has proceeded in phases, firstly by the County Council and latterly by Waste Recycling Group (WRG) under licence. The first phase was restored to grazing, but has more recently suffered from subsidence and is now in a poor condition. The Greenwood Community Forest has successfully co-ordinated a partnership between the County Council, Ashfield District Council, WRG and the local community to secure the whole site for community woodland once landfilling is complete sometime in 2007.

In the meantime, Groundwork Trust have been commissioned to develop a scheme to improve phase one and funding has been secured from a variety of partners including Building Better Communities and WRG with preliminary approval of funding from the ODPM's Living Spaces scheme. I have approved the scheme at an estimated cost of £117,000.

4. **Petitions**

A60 Kimberley Bypass – Noise Reduction: A petition was received from residents of Kimberley stating that they are seriously affected by traffic noise from the A610 and requesting that the County Council undertake noise reduction work. This situation is repeated at many locations around the county as traffic volumes increase. At present the County Council does not have a policy to resurface roads based on noise criteria and this would not be financially sustainable. However, the structural condition of the road will be monitored and low noise surfacing will be considered when maintenance on the road is next undertaken. The petitioners have been informed.

5. **Working with Environment & Sustainability Select Committee**

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to stress the importance of the role of this Committee to both scrutinise and contribute to the development of new policies that will enable me as the Cabinet Member for this portfolio to fulfil this Authority's responsibilities and promises to the people of Nottinghamshire and its partners. I would like to foster a spirit of openness and collaboration with the Select Committee, and I look forward to positive debate and dialogue on a whole host of issues that really matter to our communities and future generations.

Councillor Stella Smedley
Cabinet Member for Environment

APPENDIX

1. **Grantham Canal Partnership:** formal membership and financial contribution agreed. The Partnership is committed to the sustainable restoration of the Grantham Canal and our involvement is consistent with our support for the Chesterfield Canal Partnership.
2. **Extension of the Jacobs Babbie Contract:** the County Council entered into a contract with Babbie for the provision of engineering and related services in July 2001. The availability of this type of resource has been a key factor in the Department's ability to achieve full LTP spend. The contract has now been extended to 31 March 2006.
3. **Proposed Pleasley Bypass Extension:** the acquisition of land on Woburn Road has been approved. The Pleasley Bypass Scheme is being considered for inclusion in the second LTP for possible construction between 2006 and 2011. Public consultation on a range of options is about to commence.
4. **Community Transport Schemes:** approximately 25 voluntary car and minibus schemes are currently supported by the County Council's grant aid process, providing a vital service to people without access to normal public transport. Grants have been awarded for the 2005/06 financial year.
5. **A1 Peterborough to Blyth Grade Separated Junctions:** the Highways Agency is proposing to replace each of the three at-grade roundabouts on the Nottinghamshire section of the A1 with grade separated junctions. The draft Orders and Environmental Statements for the Five Lanes End scheme and the Blyth junction have been published by the Secretary of State. The County Council supports the schemes in general terms, and a detailed response to each has been approved.
6. **A6075/Skegby Lane, Ashfield:** following the opening of MARR it was anticipated that there would be substantial growth in general traffic at the A6075/Skegby Lane junction which would exacerbate existing problems. After consultation with Local and District Council Members a revised improvement scheme has been approved involving widening the road on Beck Lane and King's Mill Road East.
7. **A614 Burnstump Crossroads, Calverton:** an improvement scheme has been approved to upgrade the junction and improve the poor accident record. This is an interim measure whilst negotiations continue with the DfT to enable the Authority to promote a long-term solution.
8. **Adoption of a Revised Highway Inspection Regime:** a new regime has been approved which involves two types of inspections: safety inspections designed to identify all defects likely to create danger or serious inconvenience, and service inspections intended to identify other defects, eg faded road signage, damaged boundary fencing etc. Inspections will no longer

be carried out on a parish basis, but on a new hierarchy based on road type and use.

9. **Planning Policy Statement 10 and Waste Strategy 2000:** the Government is consulting on PPS 10, which offers new guidance on planning and waste management, and also on its Waste Strategy 2000. Both documents are broadly welcomed by the County Council and a detailed response was approved.
10. **Retford Bus Station Proposed Redevelopment:** a previous report to County Council outlined the major redevelopment proposed for Retford Bus Station and the recent public consultation has endorsed the proposals. Approval was given, therefore, to proceed with the detailed design.
11. **The Traffic Management Act 2004 – Consultation on Secondary Legislation:** the overall aim of this Act is to reduce congestion and disruption on the highway by giving authorities greater powers. The consultation relates to a revised Code of Practice on Co-ordination – Notice and Permit Procedures, and a new scheme of Fixed Penalty Notices for certain street works offences. The County Council is supportive of the overall proposals and a detailed response was approved.
12. **Petition to restrict HGV Usage on Mile End Road, Colwick:** the petitioners were informed that it is not possible to restrict HGV usage due to the lack of an acceptable alternative route and the very low accident record.
13. **Traffic Regulation Orders Proposed by Leicestershire County Council:** Leicestershire County Council are proposing to introduce weight restrictions on a number of roads in Leicestershire which will affect roads in Nottinghamshire. Objections have been received from residents in Nottinghamshire and it is necessary for these to be formally over-ruled insofar as they affect highways in Nottinghamshire. The objections have been over-ruled and the objectors informed accordingly.
14. **Proposed Prohibition of Waiting: Junction of Newark Road, Burgage and Station Road, Southwell:** in 2003 a Traffic Management Scheme was introduced in Southwell town centre which changed the traffic flows in the town and adversely affected the junction of Newark Road, Burgage and Station Road. An extension of the Prohibition of Waiting around this junction will alleviate the problems and consequently four objections from local residents were over-ruled.
15. **Draft Regional Waste Strategy:** the East Midlands Regional Assembly has prepared a draft Regional Waste Strategy which sets out the regional priorities for waste management and provides an assessment of expected future capacity requirements for each Waste Planning Authority. A general letter of support was endorsed.

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY SELECT PROGRAMME OF WORK 2005 - 2006

		Brought Forward from Previous Administration										
		4 Feb	18 Mar									
Pre-Agenda Meetings												
Select Committee Meetings		21 Feb	4 Apr	4 July								
1.	Best Value Review of Waste Implementation (MLT)											
	Best Value Review of Highway Services Implementation (BJD)											
	Replacement Minerals Local Plan (WA)											
	Report on Property Services School Meals/Cleaning (KMCK)											
	Monitoring of Sustainability* (NB)											
	School Travel Plans* (PS)											
	District Agencies Agreement Gedling & Rushcliffe (MOP) (BJD)											
	Wood as Fuel for School Boilers (NB)											
	Annual Report-Action Plan											
	Decriminalisation of Parking/Residents Parking * (PRR)											
2.	Street Lighting Performance (SLA and Outages) - Quarterly report (GW)											
	Public Liability Insurance for Highways (JH)											
	Development of LTP2 (SC)											

- Start of Work
- Progress Report
- Completion of Work

* Working Groups

1. Lead Officer Nick Brown. Members are Councillor Andy Freeman, Councillor V H Dobson, Councillor John Clarke, Councillor Stan Heptinstall.
2. Lead Officer Phil Rankin. Members are Councillor Andy Freeman, Councillor Mrs Stella Smedley, Councillor James Napier, Councillor V H Dobson.
3. Lead Officers Ray Dunajko/Phil Rankin. Members: those attending Environment & Sustainability Select.