



Meeting	ENVIRONMENT STANDING SELECT COMMITTEE	
Date	Monday, 29 November 2004	agenda item number
From:	Cabinet Member for Environment	

REPORT FOR PERIOD SEPTEMBER 2004-OCTOBER 2004

I reported the following issues to Council on 18 November 2004:

- A453 Improvements
- Traffic Management Act 2004
- Decriminalised Parking Enforcement Scheme Progress
- Beacon Council Bid for Sustainable Energy
- Environment Department Services to Schools Awards

1. Climate Change Conference

The conference took place in October and was organised by Nottinghamshire Agenda 21. This organisation brings together local agencies and businesses to help safeguard the local environment and is chaired by Rob Crowder, the County Council's Sustainability Team Manager.

The County Council is a major player in Nottinghamshire Agenda 21 and is leading the way in reducing carbon dioxide emissions in the county, one of the greenhouse gases considered responsible for climate change. The County Council has achieved its ambitious target to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from its buildings by 25% by 2003 and is working with the Carbon Trust to produce an action plan to manage greenhouse gas emissions produced by the Council.

I am pleased to report that the conference was a great success with the keynote speech delivered by the former BBC weatherman, Michael Fish.

2. Nottingham Travelwise Centre

The Nottingham Travelwise Centre was established in 1999 as a partnership between the County Council, Nottingham City Council, the Highways Agency and Radio Nottingham. It provides up-to-date traffic and travel information to the public through radio broadcasting, a website and a telephone hotline. Travelwise staff are employed by the City Council and co-located in the Nottingham Traffic Control Centre. In the past, financial contributions have been agreed annually.

In 2005 it is expected that the Travelwise staff will be relocated as part of the Trinity Square redevelopment and absorbed into the City's Transport Communications Team based at Lawrence House. They will continue to provide a countywide service, but will also be involved in other major City projects. The City Council has asked all partners if they would consider part funding the relocation and also commit funding for a further three years.

At this stage the impact of the proposed changes on service to the County Council and value for money is unclear and, accordingly, I have approved a contribution of £15,000 for the operation of the Travelwise Centre only during 2005/06.

3. A610 Kimberley/Eastwood Bypass: Nuthall to Giltbrook

Over the last 7 years there have been 69 reported injury accidents on the A610 between the Giltbrook Roundabout and the M1. Of these 8 were fatal and 13 were serious. This stretch of road is currently derestricted dual carriageway and despite numerous accident remedial measures, the accident rate is not falling.

I have now agreed that a 40 mph speed limit be introduced along this section which suffers major problems with bends and queuing traffic. The reduction of the existing speed limit will help reduce not only the number of accidents, but also their severity. A further section beyond the Giltbrook Roundabout will be subject to a 50 mph limit to act as a buffer zone and reduce speeds at locations where junction accidents have occurred. Signing and lining and central reserve safety fencing will also be installed.

4. A6011 Radcliffe Road Bus Priority Measures

Improvement to the highway network to provide priority for public transport and for pedestrians and cyclists is a major element of the County Council's transport strategy and Local Transport Plans. The introduction of measures that will facilitate the flow of buses on the A6011 corridor forms an integral part of this strategy and is funded from LTP monies.

In July 2002 I approved the consultation process on an Experimental Bus and Cycle Lane Order and this came into force in May 2003 for 18 months. During that time there have been no objections to the scheme and I have agreed, therefore, that the Order will be made permanent.

Councillor Terry Butler
Cabinet Member for Environment

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