Nottinghamshire County Council



meeting ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SELECT COMMITTEE

date 12 DECEMBER 2005

from Director of Environment

agenda item number

REFERRAL FROM CABINET

RESPONSE OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY TO THE FINAL REPORT OF THE TRAFFIC CALMING STUDY GROUP

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the response of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability to the above report.

Information and Advice

2. At its meeting on 9 November 2005 Cabinet considered the response of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability to the report of the Traffic Calming Study Group. This response is set out in the attachment to this report and was accepted by Cabinet.

The following extract from the Notes of the Cabinet meeting is set out below in order that the Select Committee is aware of the Cabinet debate on this matter:-

"Councillor Smedley introduced the report and explained the reasons for her responses as set out in the paper.

Some Members were disappointed with the response in that it seemed to suggest that certain action could not be taken in Nottinghamshire due to Government Regulations preventing this whereas such action seemed to be taken in neighbouring authorities and also that additional funds could not be made available to Members on an individual basis to spend on highway safety initiatives within their electoral divisions.

Cabinet colleagues were of the view that the proposed response reflected the reality of what could be achieved in the real world having regard to such matters as budgetary considerations and professional advice. They agreed that one of the more crucial issues was about proper driving behaviour and establishing a range of responses to combat poor behaviour through such measures as the National Driver Improvement Scheme, other potential courses and perhaps also making it necessary to retake the driving test in certain circumstances. They were of the view that speed cameras have a role

to play in this respect, but felt that in many instances they were sited on main routes rather than on more minor roads in estates and neighbourhoods where they could have greater impact.

In conclusion, Councillor Smedley agreed that it was very difficult to legislate for bad driving. She also acknowledged that Nottinghamshire had a significant budget to deal with road safety issues but that, nevertheless, she felt that it was necessary to put her responses in the context of looking at the big picture of where accident reduction measures were most needed. Members were also reminded of the current review of Road Safety which will be reported to Cabinet in the New Year.

In the circumstances, it is:-

RECOMMENDED

That the Select Committee consider the attached response of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability.

Background Papers Available for Inspection

None.

Electoral Division Affected

All.