



Meeting **ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY STANDING SELECT COMMITTEE**

Date **Monday, 19 September 2005**

agenda item number

From: **Cabinet Member for Environment and
Sustainability**

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD JULY 2005

I have reported the following items to Council on 8 September 2005:

- Green Apple Awards and BBC Update
- Waste PFI Contract
- LTP Annual Progress Report & LTP2
- Joint Waste Core Strategy
- Road Safety Quiz

1. A612 Gedling Transport Improvement Scheme

Improvements to the highway network which provide priority for public transport, pedestrians and cyclists are a major element of the County Council's transport strategy as detailed in the Local Transport Plan (LTP). The introduction of this major scheme on the A612 corridor between Burton Joyce and Gedling forms an integral part of this strategy and the Authority was successful in securing funding of over £6m from the DfT for the project.

The scheme consists of 2 km of new single carriageway between Netherfield and Burton Joyce with a new bridge over the Nottingham to Lincoln railway line. "Bus plugs" will be introduced on the 'bypassed' sections of the A612. These are sections of road closed to all vehicles except buses and cyclists and will allow public transport to benefit from faster journey times.

I have given my approval for consultation and advertising to begin on the Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) and, if no objections are received, they will be introduced as advertised.

The meeting of the County Council on 8 September will also have given further consideration to the funding and implementation of the scheme.

2. **A1 Peterborough to Blyth Grade Separated Junctions**

It has previously been reported to this Committee that 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, ie Blyth, Markham Moor and Five Lanes End. The draft Orders for Markham Moor were published by the Secretary of State in June 2005.

The Orders show the line of the new road, the roads to be improved, alterations to accesses and public rights of way and compulsory purchase of land required for construction of the project. The objective of the scheme is to improve road safety and reduce congestion. Assuming a favourable outcome to the consultation on the Orders, construction could commence in 2007 with the scheme being open to traffic in 2008.

The scheme is supported by the County Council and officers have already met with the Highways Agency to resolve a large number of concerns. However, an objection has been raised to the compulsory purchase of some land comprising part of the Council depot. This is likely to prejudice the operation of the depot and any future plans to rationalise maintenance and gritting operations from this site.

I have approved the County Council's response to the draft Orders.

3. **Proposed Cycle Route between Gedling Village and Burton Joyce**

This scheme forms part of a long-standing proposal to create a cycle route along the A612 corridor from Nottingham city centre to Lowdham which was put on hold pending the development of the Gedling Integrated Transport Scheme. This is in line with Government aims to encourage and promote cycling.

The route was put forward following requests from members of the public for cycling facilities between Gedling and Burton Joyce and after consultation with the cycling group Pedals. The scheme also complements Gedling Borough Council's cycling strategy.

Following consultation the design was amended slightly to take account of specific concerns raised by residents. However, a number of objections to the scheme remain. I have carefully considered each individual objection and reviewed the County Council's response and I have decided to approve the implementation of the cycle route.

4. **Street Lighting Energy Supply**

The County Council Strategic Plan included a challenging target to reduce CO₂ emissions from buildings by 25% from 1998 levels by

2003. The Council has already established a long term contract for green electricity use in buildings, thus helping to achieve this target and is to stretch the target further. A major purchase of green electricity for street lighting would enable the County Council to move towards a more challenging 60% reduction by 2050.

I have given my approval to invite competitive tenders and award contracts for the provision of electricity for street lighting and illuminated signs.

Councillor Stella Smedley
Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability