

## REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

### KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES IN TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

1. The report seeks to update Members on various issues relating to the Transport and Highways portfolio since the last report to Council.

#### **Fatal 4 Campaign**

2. I am pleased to announce that we have been Highly Commended by the Prince Michael of Kent Road Safety Awards for our "Fatal 4" road safety campaign, which targeted the four main causes of death and serious injury on our roads. The campaign tackled "drinking and driving", "speeding", "mobile phone use" and "failure to wear a seat belt" through roadside posters, radio advertising and face to face advice from the police. As a result of the campaign, casualties reduced across all areas.

#### **Snow Code**

3. We are urging householders in Nottinghamshire to be a good neighbour this winter and help clear snow from roads, paths and pavements. A belief has grown up in recent years that you shouldn't clear snow from roads and footways yourself in case you get sued. In fact, there is no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the footway outside your home or from public spaces provided you take sensible precautions, and grit from council bins can be used on public footways as well as roads. The Government's Snow Code gives clear advice on clearing snow and ice safely, and can be found on-line.

#### **Bilsthorpe Depot Update**

4. Members will recall that construction of the depot started last winter. Work is progressing well, with all buildings now being fitted out with electrics, data and plumbing infrastructure, and walls being closed and painting started. Externally the drainage and ducting are complete, and the kerbing and street lighting are progressing. The Salt Barn was completed in August and partially filled with salt at that time. Deliveries resumed at the end of November after the concrete apron outside the barn was laid, and the facility is now full. The current working programme has a planned end date for most aspects of Christmas 2011, with one or two pieces of workshop equipment to be installed in January. Moving in will take place from the New Year and take about two months.

### **Blue Badge Reform**

5. The Department for Transport (DfT) have been undertaking a programme of reform for the Blue Badge scheme aimed at minimising the potential for fraud. As part of this scheme, the DfT will be altering the legal design of the badge that must be used from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 and this will result in an increased expenditure for the County Council in issuing the badges. Despite this, we will be holding the price of a blue badge at £2 to the benefit of the estimated 15-20,000 Blue Badge holders in the County.

### **Newark Bus Station Opening**

6. I am pleased to report that the new 5 bay bus station on the site of the Potterdyke (ASDA) redevelopment opened to passengers on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2011. An opening event was held at the bus station on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November when the Chairman of the County Council unveiled a plaque. The bus station has been funded from contributions from Nottinghamshire County Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council and ASDA and will be operated by Nottinghamshire County Council.
7. It boasts comfortable seating, toilets, staff information points, CCTV and electronic displays. The bus station offers a much improved waiting environment for bus users, and it is hoped that this will help stimulate more bus patronage within the town.

### **A60 Forest Lane Junction update**

8. Members will recall that money had been secured from the Growth Point fund to improve this junction near Papplewick. Work has progressed extremely well on site and the scheme is expected to be completed well ahead of schedule. Weather permitting, the new signalised junction is expected to be opened on December 13, 2011.

### **Mansfield Bus Station Update**

9. Members will be pleased to hear that the first phase of the Mansfield bus station scheme has been completed, which was the work that began in June to signalise the junction of Station Road and Belvedere Street. These works were undertaken by Nottinghamshire County Council utilising input from Mansfield District Council. The next phase of the project will be improvements to Quaker Way and Station Road which will commence later this month, and then in the New Year the Station Road car park will close and work on the main building will begin. The bus station is on schedule to be opened early in 2013. I am also pleased to report that Department for Transport have accelerated a further £0.5m of funding for this financial year bringing its contribution to a total of £1.15m.

### **Pocket Park and Ride sites**

10. Members will recall that the new pocket park and ride schemes at Stragglethorpe and Cotgrave were opened last summer. They provide the opportunity for Christmas shoppers to avoid trying to park in Nottingham, and to take the bus instead. We have put out a press release to encourage shoppers to take up the new facility.

### **Zebra Crossings Celebrate 60th Birthday**

11. The first Zebra Crossing was installed 60 years ago in Slough, Berkshire in 1951, and they are still popular with the public. This year we are installing 10 new Zebra crossings in Nottinghamshire; Zebra crossings have already been installed outside the Garibaldi school in Clipstone; Coxmoor Road in Sutton in Ashfield; Netherton Road in Worksop; Nottingham Road in Selston and in Linby Road in Hucknall., and it is planned to install Zebras in Nottingham Road in Eastwood; Church Street in Market Warsop; Burton Road in Carlton and Victoria Parkway in Netherfield.
12. In addition it is proposed to introduce puffin crossings in Nottingham Road, Burton Joyce; Ambleside in Gamston; Rosemary Street in Mansfield and Wilford Lane in West Bridgford.

### **Residents Parking Schemes**

13. Progress has been made on made on a number of residents parking schemes;
  - Rose Lane, Mansfield Woodhouse. The Rose Lane area is regularly used by shoppers and workers, making it difficult for residents to find parking. As a result of requests from residents I have approved the introduction of a new Residents Parking Scheme as proposed.
  - Layton Avenue area, Mansfield. This scheme has been in place for over 25 years, and in that time circumstances have changed so the original scheme is no longer suitable. A new scheme has been drawn up to better accommodate the current parking demands in the area by providing more permit holder spaces, creating a flexible parking layout and allowing residents to purchase permits for their visitors. I have taken note of responses to the consultation and approved the scheme with minor changes.
  - Woodthorpe Drive, Mapperley. Residents have requested a parking scheme because of uncontrolled parking by visitors to the local shops and pubs. I have approved a 24 hour permit parking scheme to prevent obtrusive and obstructive parking outside residential properties, but also incorporating 2 hour limited waiting away from residential properties.
  - Arnold West. Residents of the Central Avenue area have requested a daytime permit parking scheme covering the west side of Arnold close to the Town centre, to remove intrusive shopper and worker parking from residential areas. I have approved this scheme as proposed.
14. I have also approved arrangements so that we may now consider the removal of residents parking schemes where these are no longer needed. It should be noted that this requires essentially the same process as introducing a new scheme and that resources will have to be carefully balanced between continuing to progress new schemes and starting the most needed removal of one or two existing schemes.

### **A 453 Widening Scheme**

15. Members will of course be aware that the government have fast tracked the long awaited improvements to the A453. The Nottinghamshire section of the road is the second most congested part of the national road network after a short section of the M25, and in the five years up to October 2010, there were 185 accidents involving personal injury on just this part of the A453.
16. The A453 currently costs larger businesses as much as £100,000 a year because of increased fuel usage, difficulty reaching customers, abandoned journeys and accident costs. The dualling will provide an estimated £540m boost to the regional economy.
17. I want to particularly thank East Midlands Airport, Boots, RH Freight and Hardstaffs and our partner authorities for their support to our successful campaign for this scheme.

### **A1 Elkesley Junction Improvements**

18. I am also pleased to say that the government has approved the Highways Agency scheme for the A1 at Elkesley. The village is only accessible from the A1, and to reach the southbound carriageway cars have to cross the central reservation. Residents of the village have been campaigning for over 20 years for a bridge and its construction will also allow a temporary 50mph limit on the A1 to be lifted.

### **Hucknall Town improvement Scheme**

19. Finally I am pleased to say that the Council's Best and Final Bid for the Hucknall Town Centre scheme has also been approved. The scheme involves pedestrianising the High Street between the South Street/Baker Street junction and the Watnall Road junction. A new inner relief road, running parallel with the High Street, will cater for the majority of the displaced traffic and will also accommodate additional local traffic generated by new housing developments. A new two-way 'bus only' link will also be constructed to connect the proposed inner relief road with the remaining portion of the High Street that carries traffic. This bus link will serve to maintain bus penetration into the town centre. The existing double roundabout at the junction of Linby Road, Station Road and Ashgate Road will be replaced with a new traffic signal controlled junction.

**COUNCILLOR RICHARD JACKSON  
CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**