

Draft Executive response to the Recommendations from Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Highways and Transportation

Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee have recommended to the Executive to:

- 1. note that the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorsed the draft Approach to Parking as the basis for the development of parking services in Central Bedfordshire, and that a further report will be brought to the Executive for consideration at the end of the public consultation period;**

Response: Public consultation on the draft Approach to Parking is ongoing with local communities and their parish councils. A final draft of the document will be updated based on the findings of this consultation for consideration by Overview and Scrutiny Committee before coming back to Executive early in the New Year.

- 2. resolve that controlled parking zones be used as a major measure for the management of car parking, provided that such zones are selectively introduced following proper evaluation and are sufficiently and adequately funded;**

Response: The Executive notes and agrees with O&SC's response on this issue. Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs) are areas where all on-street parking is controlled to give priority to specific road user groups who must display a parking permit or voucher. The Authority is able to control parking in such a way that promotes its own policies e.g. restricting commuter parking around rail stations and encouraging short stay shopper parking in town centres. Prior to any new Controlled Parking Zone being introduced a full evaluation will be undertaken to ensure the schemes are at least self-financing.

- 3. resolve that residents' parking zones as such should not be used by the Council in the future as a parking control measure and that any further requests should be considered in the context of controlled parking zones;**

Executive recognises that, in many residential areas of Central Bedfordshire, the only practical way to control parking in favour of local residents is to use resident parking zones (RPZs). Executive is cognisant of the fact that the cost of implementing and administering RPZs in Central Bedfordshire currently exceeds the revenue received from such schemes. However, measures aimed at reducing administration costs are being introduced. These will include online and telephone scheme registration and payment facilities. It is expected that such changes will make RPZs at least cost neutral in future.

- 4. note that the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the parking standards (as set out in Appendix C to the draft Approach to Parking) to be fair and reasonable, and that a further report will be brought back to the Executive for consideration at the end of the public consultation period;**

Response: The Executive notes and welcomes O&SC's response on this issue.

- 5. resolve that the Managing Agency Contract (MAC) contract is the right type of contract for Central Bedfordshire Council and that such a contract should be the default option when considering options for the re-letting of the contract; (Please see section 2 of Part B of Appendix B)**

Response: The Executive notes and welcomes O&SC's response on this issue. The existing MAC is due to expire at the end of March 2016. In 2013, work will start a new procurement process to prepare a replacement contract and will use this feedback as the basis for that work.

- 6. endorse the Highway and Transportation Task Group's conclusion that the MAC contract is operating well and delivering value for money;**

Response: The Executive notes and welcomes O&SC's response on this issue.

- 7. endorse the potential improvements as identified in paragraphs 57 to 62 of the attached report of the Assistant Director (Highways and Transport) to the Highways and Transportation Task Force of 24 August 2011 and that those which have not yet been implemented be authorised by the relevant Executive Member (or Executive if deemed necessary) for action by officers and Amey;**

Response: The Executive notes and agrees with O&SC's response on this issue. Over the coming 12 months, improvements will be progressed around communication, scheme consultation, traffic sensitive streets, surface dressing and lighting columns as defined in the above mentioned report.

- 8. agree additional funds of £4m for each of the next four years to be included in the highways maintenance budget; (Please see section 3 of Part B of Appendix B)**

Response: The Executive notes and will give consideration to this response as part of the 2012/13 budget process in relation to this capital spend item.

9. **that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee requests the officers to explore with Amey a mechanism to ensure that cases retain their Highways Help Desk reference number when they are passed on to other teams etc within the Council so that they can continue to be tracked;**

Response: The Executive notes and agrees with O&SC's response on this issue. Work will be progressed between the Helpdesk and service areas to facilitate this.

10. **that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee requests the officers to:**

- i) **make provision for centralised information to be made available so that Members can be fully briefed about the emerging situation in respect of planned infrastructure and other developments over the ensuing three months;**

Response: The Executive notes and agrees with O&SC's response on this issue. Work is underway to develop a single electronic repository for planned highway infrastructure which can be interrogated by Members.

- ii) **explore the implementation of a computerised GIS map to support such an arrangement;**

Response: The Executive notes and agrees with O&SC's response on this issue.

- iii) **request Amey to liaise with the Council's planning division to ensure Amey is better apprised of matters such as Section 106 agreements, major schemes etc; and**

Response: The Executive notes and agrees with O&SC's response on this issue. Improved liaison arrangements are being developed and will be supported by the emerging GIS system for highway infrastructure.

- iv) **requests the officers to update and reissue to all members the "Highways and Transport – Service provision Guide for Members" along with the one page map and contact details of Amey's area teams.**

Response: The Executive notes and agrees with O&SC's response on this issue. The Guide is currently being updated and will be re-issued to Members in the coming weeks.