

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee North Warwickshire Area Committee

Date of Committee 1st February 2006

Report Title Village Traffic Plans Officer

Summary To discuss the creation of a new officer post to develop Village Traffic Plans in North Warwickshire.

For further information please contact Lisa Jones
Transport Planner
Tel: 01926 735670
lisajones@warwickshire.gov.uk

Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? Yes/No

Background Papers None

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- *Details to be specified*

Other Committees

Local Member(s)
(With brief comments, if appropriate)

Other Elected Members

Cabinet Member
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)

Chief Executive

Legal I Marriott – comments incorporated

Finance V Rennie – agreed
O Winters - agreed

Other Chief Officers

District Councils



- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION **YES/NO** (*If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps*)

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

North Warwickshire Area Committee – 1st February 2006

Village Traffic Plans Officer

Report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy

Recommendation

That subject to the availability of matching resources within Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy (PTES) for 2006/7, Area Committee agrees to joint fund (by 50%) a new three year fixed term post to develop Village Traffic Plans in North Warwickshire.

1. Background

- 1.1 In December 2005, Members of North Warwickshire Area Committee called a seminar to discuss with officers their concerns about traffic related problems in North Warwickshire villages and put forward a recommended approach for dealing with these issues.
- 1.2 Traffic issues are acknowledged as a major source of local concern for Members of North Warwickshire Area Committee, generating a significant amount of contact from local people.
- 1.3 It was considered that the rural nature of North Warwickshire warranted a particular approach to tackling traffic issues and that many of the traffic related problems in villages could be addressed with relatively small scale improvements. However, without a formal process to identify and address these problems, Members considered it difficult for significant progress to be made on such matters.

2. Village Traffic Plans

- 2.1 Members of North Warwickshire Area Committee put forward a suggestion that traffic appraisals be carried out for each village in North Warwickshire. It was envisaged that these would entail comprehensive assessments which consider issues of traffic management, road safety, traffic speed, pedestrian safety, parking, street furniture, road markings, enforcement, road condition, HGV routes and winter gritting.

- 2.2 The assessments would incorporate the views and aspirations of Parish Councils and their wider communities and create a strong sense of ownership.
- 2.3 Following the assessments, a Village Traffic Plan would be produced for each village, setting out a costed and prioritised list of recommended improvements to address the particular traffic problems of each village in North Warwickshire.

3. Funding

Staff resources

- 3.1 Developing Village Traffic Plans for each village within North Warwickshire will require a significant amount of staff time which would not be feasible within existing resource levels.
- 3.2 Members of North Warwickshire Area Committee therefore proposed creating a new post to work exclusively on Village Traffic Plans, to be jointly funded by the Area Committee and the Planning Transport and Economic Strategy (PTES) Department. It was suggested that the post should be a three year fixed term appointment.
- 3.3 It is envisaged that the post-holder would work closely with Parish Councils and local communities. They could be locally based which would be in line with the recent Best Value Review of Traffic Management.
- 3.4 The total annual cost for the new post will be approximately £30,000. It is proposed that 50% of this post will be funded by North Warwickshire Area Committee and 50% by PTES. However, the ability of PTES to fund 50% of this post will depend on the outcome of the budgetary process for the coming financial year.

Funding for improvements identified by Village Traffic Appraisals

- 3.5 The prioritised list of recommended improvements highlighted within each Village Traffic Plan will be considered alongside other priorities within the department's annual process for allocating funding to new transport schemes and initiatives.
- 3.6 It is anticipated that many of the improvements identified would be of a minor and low cost nature, which could potentially be secured through existing procedures such as maintenance regimes.
- 3.7 However, production of Village Traffic Plans has the potential to raise expectations amongst local communities that the County Council will be able to address all problems identified in each village. There will therefore be a need to ensure that expectations are managed effectively from the outset.
- 3.8 There will be no additional Local Transport Plan (LTP) funding available to cover the additional work likely to be generated by this initiative. The majority of LTP funding is committed to the delivery of a range of strategic projects.

3.9 However, Area Committee could consider utilising funding from the delegated budget for North Warwickshire for implementing measures identified through Village Traffic Plans which cost over £6,000 which is the de-minimus cost for schemes funded from the Capital budget.

4. Summary

4.1 It has been proposed that a new post for an officer to carry out Village Traffic Appraisals could be jointly funded by North Warwickshire Area Committee and PTES. The ability of PTES to part fund this post will be dependent on the outcome of the budgetary process for 2006/7.

4.2 Over the course of three years, the post-holder would produce Traffic Plans for each of the villages in North Warwickshire, which will highlight specific issues and problems and recommend how these could be addressed.

4.3 Whilst it is anticipated that the appraisals will highlight a number of minor improvements which can potentially be incorporated into existing work programmes, there is a need to ensure that local expectations are not raised excessively given that no additional funding has been identified for this work.

JOHN DEEGAN
Strategic Director of Environment and Economy
Shire Hall
Warwick

18th January 2006