

TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

DECISIONS made by the Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, Councillor M Lock, on 25 July 2005 at County Hall, Lewes.

Councillor Mrs Stroude spoke on item 4 (see minute 12 below)
Councillor O'Keeffe spoke on items 5 and 10 (see minutes 13 and 18 below)
Councillor Whetstone spoke on item 6 (see minute 14 below)
Councillors Lacey and Taylor spoke on item 9 (see minute 17 below)

10. MINUTES

10.1 Councillor Lock approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2005.

11. REPORTS

11.1 Copies of the reports referred to in the minutes below are contained in the minute book.

12. PETITION FOR PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS ON A275, CHAILEY

12.1 Councillor Lock considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment. Lewes District Councillor Sharon Davy addressed the Lead Member on behalf of the petitioners requesting pedestrian crossing facilities on the A275 near Mill Lane, Chailey.

DECISION

12.2 To inform the petitioners that this location has been included on the County Council's list for the provision of a crossing although its priority is relatively low and a crossing cannot be provided in the short term.

Reason

12.3 Although the site meets the basic criterion for the provision of a pedestrian crossing it has a relatively low priority when compared to other sites across the County. The site will remain on the list to be reprioritised when this issue is next considered by the Lead Member.

13. OFFHAM ROAD, LEWES - PETITION REQUESTING SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

13.1 Councillor Lock considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment.

DECISION

13.2 To advise the petitioners that the County Council is undertaking a study of the entire length of Offham Road with the view to constructing traffic calming measures and improving pedestrian facilities, which will be the subject of public consultation in Spring 2006.

Reason

13.3 The matters covered by the petition received on 24 May 2005 are already being considered within the current study being carried out by the County Council.

14. ERIDGE - PETITION CONCERNING CAR PARKING NEAR THE STATION BRIDGE

14.1 Councillor Lock considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment.

DECISIONS

14.2 To advise the petitioners (1) that this matter has been considered and that formal parking restrictions cannot be justified based on the existing conditions; but

(2) that the Lead Member, like the local MP, will raise the issue of the car parking charges at Eridge Station with Network Rail.

Reasons

14.3 The issues raised in the petition have previously been discussed in depth by the Lead Member with the lead petitioner, the local MP, and Traffic Management Officers for Sussex Police and the County Council. Whilst it is not appropriate for the County Council to impose parking restrictions in these circumstances it was agreed that the following steps will be taken to improve the situation:-

(a) installation of a white line around the junction of Forge Lane which will be linked to the road markings delineating the adjacent layby;

(b) the local MP will take up the issue of car parking charges at Eridge Station with Network Rail; and

(c) the Lead Member will pursue the possibility of car sharing initiatives through the County Council's Travel Plans to try to minimise the number of cars being left at the station.

15. ETCHINGHAM ROAD, EASTBOURNE - PETITION CONCERNING ROAD SAFETY

15.1 Councillor Lock considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment.

DECISIONS

15.2 To inform the petitioners that (1) this location will be added to the priority list of traffic calming requests and considered according to the ranking it attains; and

(2) advisory signs will be erected to deter obstructive parking near the school in Chailey Close.

Reason

15.3 Had this site been included with the last annual assessment of traffic calming requests it would have been ranked at No. 77. In view of this, the Director of Transport and Environment cannot recommend any immediate action and proposes to review its position as part of the next annual assessment. The problem of parking at school arrival and departure times could only be effectively resolved by regularly enforced restrictions. These are not a realistic option at this location, but it is hoped that the proposed advisory signing will bring about some improvement in the situation.

16. BIRKDALE, BEXHILL- PETITION CONCERNING TRAFFIC SPEEDS

16.1 Councillor Lock considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment. Mr J Bolton addressed the Lead Member on behalf of the petitioners regarding speed limits at Birkdale, Bexhill.

DECISION

16.2 To advise the petitioners that this location is currently on the County Council's priority list for traffic calming investigations and that, subject to the annual review of that priority list, it will be studied in detail when resources are available.

Reason

16.3 The site is already on the priority list for traffic calming investigations and, subject to the annual review of that list, it will be studied in detail when resources are available.

17. INTRODUCTION OF A QUALITY BUS CORRIDOR ON SEASIDE IN EASTBOURNE

17.1 Councillor Lock considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment. At the Lead Member's invitation, Mrs Brewster, the original lead petitioner, addressed him on behalf of the petitioners.

DECISIONS

17.2 To (1) approve the implementation of a programme of bus priority measures along the Seaside Quality Bus Corridor in Eastbourne as set out in Appendix 1 to the report; and

(2) request the Director of Transport and Environment to (a) report on progress both to the Lead Member and Eastbourne Borough Council nine months after implementation of the scheme; and (b) to keep the local residents fully informed.

Reason

17.3 The four Quality Bus Corridors and the introduction of decriminalised parking form key elements of the Eastbourne Urban area Local Transport Plan with the aim of improving the quality of bus services and encouraging modal shift away from the car. The measures proposed on Seaside in Eastbourne represent the first phase of the development of the Quality Bus Corridors.

18. LEWES PARKING REVIEW

18.1 Councillor Lock considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment.

18.2 Councillor Lock noted the representations of local residents on a number of detailed issues which were reported by the local Member.

DECISION

18.3 That detailed proposals be developed and draft Traffic Regulation Orders be published as necessary to give effect to the changes set out in Appendix B to the report.

Reason

18.4 The Director of Transport and Environment considers that, generally, the scheme is achieving its objectives and is working well. The consultant's report sets out a number of changes which will improve the scheme and the Director of Transport and Environment endorses those recommendations with variations as supported by the Lewes Joint Parking Board. The modified recommendations will better reflect the specific character of Lewes and the distinctive and individual issues that need to be addressed.

19. NEWHAVEN LOCAL AREA TRANSPORT STRATEGY

19.1 Councillor Lock considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment.

DECISIONS

19.2 To (1) approve the Local Area Transport Strategy (LATS) for Newhaven, subject to those amendments proposed in Appendix A to the report; and

(2) note that the LATS will automatically become a daughter document to the Local Transport Plan (LTP), and will be used to inform allocations of funding that reflect a prioritised package of local integrated transport schemes and to provide a framework to assess planning proposals to ensure that they complement LTP objectives.

Reason

19.3 The implementation of the Newhaven LATS will contribute to improving travel choices and bring about more environmentally sustainable transport within the town.

20. BRIGHTON TO ASHFORD TRAIN SERVICE

20.1 Councillor Lock considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment.

DECISIONS

20.2 To inform the Train Operating Company that East Sussex County Council:

- strongly supports the introduction of the proposed Brighton-Ashford train service;
- welcomes the proposal for enhanced peak services between Rye and Ashford;
- regrets and opposes the virtual cessation of service to Three Oaks, Doleham and Winchelsea;
- feels strongly that the Train Operating Company should review the proposal not to serve Ore in the Ashford direction in the light of the Ore Valley development proposals; and
- requests the Train Operating Company to provide an earlier arrival at Ashford International.

Reason

20.3 The proposed Brighton-Ashford train service meets a long-standing County Council aspiration for better connectivity between towns along the Sussex Coast and into Kent, supporting planned housing and employment growth. However, virtual cessation of train services to Three Oaks, Doleham and Winchelsea runs contrary to the East Sussex Provisional second Local Transport Plan objective to maintain or improve accessibility to rural areas. Specifically this will make development of the County Council's emerging Accessibility Strategy more problematic. Whilst the Director of Transport and Environment considers that the introduction of the service should be welcomed, the Train Operating Company should be made aware of the detriment to the rural community in the Brede Valley resulting from their proposals.

21. TRANSPORT MAJOR SCHEMES GUIDANCE

21.1 Councillor Lock considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment.

DECISION

21.2 To (1) inform the Department of Transport that the County Council welcomes the proposed guidance on the submission to the Government of major transport schemes, but requests:

- (a) greater clarity on the submission of complex transport schemes;
- (b) assurances that the Department is committed to meeting its own responsibilities as laid out in the guidance;
- (c) greater clarity as to the Department's expectations on the issue of stakeholder involvement and public consultation; and

(2) request the Department of Transport to issue, as soon as possible, guidance on:

- (a) the funding of preparatory costs for major transport schemes; and
- (b) the effects of the Government's proposals on three-year local government financial settlements on major transport schemes.

Reason

21.3 Details of the impact of three-year local government financial settlements on the progress of major schemes are awaited from the Department of Transport. It is therefore difficult to comment on this potentially major aspect of the funding stream at present. However, if the new regime results in greater certainty and confidence on the part of both local authorities and the Government on both the progress and funding of major transport schemes, it should be welcomed.

22. CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

22.1 Councillor Lock considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment.

DECISIONS

22.2 To (1) approve the draft Construction and Demolition Waste Supplementary Planning Document, with the accompanying draft Sustainability Appraisal Report for public consultation; and

(2) authorise the Director of Transport and Environment, in consultation with officers at Brighton & Hove City Council, to make any appropriate detailed amendments to the documents prior to public consultation.

Reason

22.3 Subject to any detailed re-drafting, the draft Supplementary Planning document represents a sustainable approach to reducing construction and demolition waste and managing its impact.

23. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

23.1 Councillor Lock considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment.

DECISIONS

23.2 To (1) note the progress made on the Environmental Management Programme to date; and

(2) agree the extension of current activity through external funding, as set out in paragraph 3.1 to the report.

Reason

23.3 An extension of the current activity through external funding, as set out in the report, will support a range of County Council objectives and assist local businesses.