

CABINET RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON FREIGHT MADE BY THE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

The Cabinet welcomes the proactive approach of the members of the Environment and Transport committee to seeking solutions to problems associated to movement of goods within and through Surrey. In response to the five recommendations made by the committee at their meeting on 15 September 2011 the Cabinet will take the following action:

Recommendation (1)

That representations be made to Government to require HGV operators to use either HGV specific satellite navigation systems or bespoke HGV guidance systems, and that they are kept up to date.

Response:

The Cabinet recognises the important role that up to date HGV specific satellite navigation systems or bespoke HGV guidance systems can play in effective route planning and the avoidance of incidents and will make representations to the government to take actions which increase their use amongst operators.

Recommendation (2)

That guidelines be provided to Members outlining what they can do to support communities with regard to freight problems, and in particular, access issues for HGVs.

Response:

The current procedures for reporting and addressing local lorry access and delivery issues will be reviewed and new guidelines for identifying problems will be provided for Members, local representative groups and residents.

Recommendation (3)

To ensure that the costs to the Council associated with repairs following bridge strikes are recovered from the driver or HGV operator responsible for the incident, or the appropriate insurance company.

Response:

Where appropriate, the county council will take the action necessary to recover costs associated with damage to council property or from dealing with lorry incidents.

Recommendation (4)

To request that bridge strikes be considered by the Drive Smart Campaign.

Response:

The county council will discuss opportunities with the Drive SMART board for promoting safe and effective lorry driving in Surrey, especially in regard to avoiding bridge strikes.

Recommendation (5)

To survey the height of bridges in Surrey to ensure their markings are accurate.

Response:

The county council's safety engineering team have already surveyed the top 5 rail over road bridges in terms of the number of strikes suffered, and are in the process of

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obtaining a quote for the cost of making any necessary improvements to the signing on the approaches to these bridges. Once the cost estimates have been obtained, sources of funding will be identified. It is intended to repeat the same process in future years to ensure that the signing on the approach to all Surrey's rail over road bridges will be checked and enhanced where necessary, with the priority being at the sites that need it the most.

Cabinet
27 September 2011