

CABINET- 22 February 2022**CABINET RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY OF LOCAL AND JOINT COMMITTEE
HIGHWAY FUNCTIONS****Recommendations to Cabinet:**

The Select Committee, in principle, support the recommendations in the draft Cabinet report titled 'Local and Joint Committee (LC/JC) Highway Function' subject to the following areas being addressed:

1. All references to Community Network Approach (CNA) in the Cabinet report be removed. [Any future CNA proposal needs to be fully developed first with a draft provided to Members for their comments and feedback].
2. County wide Integrated Transport Scheme (ITS) funding is apportioned using the same methodology used previously which is a top slice of £100,000 to districts and boroughs and then the remaining amount splits between the 81 members, for the transition year only.
3. An information sheet about how the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) aspect will be incorporated under the new arrangement be circulated to assist Members, or a detailed report is brought to the Select Committee.
4. Asks that residents continue to have the right to present petitions and questions to Joint Committees/Local Committees on highways matters during the transition period even if the other components (Members' allocations, parking reviews, etc.) are taken out of their jurisdiction.
5. Any new proposal must be accessible to all – especially those with no digital/internet access.

John O'Reilly

Chairman of the Community, Environment & Highways Select Committee

Cabinet Response:

I would like to thank the Chairman and the Members of the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee (CEHSC) for scrutinising a draft of the Cabinet report at their session on the 7th of February 2022 as part of pre-decision scrutiny and for allowing me to participate at this session and answer questions raised by the panel.

I note that the Select Committee, in principle, indicated their support for the recommendations in the draft Cabinet report subject to the identified areas being addressed, to which I am happy to respond.

1. *All references to Community Network Approach (CNA) in the Cabinet report be removed. [Any future CNA proposal needs to be fully developed first with a draft provided to Members for their comments and feedback].*

No reference is made to Community Network Approach (CNA) in the final published Cabinet report. Members will continue to be involved and engaged in CNA development.

2. *County wide Integrated Transport Scheme (ITS) funding is apportioned using the same methodology used previously which is a top slice of £100,000 to districts and boroughs and then the remaining amount splits between the 81 members, for the transition year only.*

This proposal has been incorporated in the final published Cabinet report. This is covered in paragraph 20 of the report and Table 1 shows the allocations by D&B area for the next financial year (2022/2023).

3. *An information sheet about how the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) aspect will be incorporated under the new arrangement be circulated to assist Members, or a detailed report is brought to the Select Committee.*

An information sheet on CIL will be prepared for Members.

The proposals in the Cabinet report relate only to County Council Executive Highway functions delegated to Local and Joint Committees (LC/JCs).

The four jointly constituted Joint Committees have some role in the allocation of CIL funding for their respective areas. It is important to stress that the allocations of CIL is a Borough and District function and does not fall within the remit of the report presented to Cabinet or considered by CEHSC.

The only reference to CIL within the Cabinet report is within Paragraph 19 which sets out that a new budget will be created to support feasibility studies and technical appraisals for Member ideas and schemes, including for CIL bids.

4. *Asks that residents continue to have the right to present petitions and questions to Joint Committees/Local Committees on highways matters during the transition period even if the other components (Members' allocations, parking reviews, etc.) are taken out of their jurisdiction.*

Recommendation 2 within the Cabinet report states that all executive functions previously delegated to LC/JCs relating to highways are delegated to Officers in consultation with the relevant Divisional Member with effect from the 1st of April 2022.

The Petitions Scheme presumes that the petition would be referred to the most effective place for consideration of the decision or subject matter of the petition.

5. *Any new proposal must be accessible to all – especially those with no digital/internet access.*

The County Council is committed to providing accessible and inclusive services and providing choice for people, so they can interact and engage with us in ways, and at times, that suit them. While digital technologies can certainly help enhance the customer experience and provide new ways for us to engage with residents and reach more people, we recognise that not everyone is able to use them.

Our approach is to empower customers to help themselves through digital self-service where they can and where this is their preferred choice, especially for routine transactions. This then frees up capacity for officers to support people that need more targeted help and support, so we can make sure no one is left behind. Alongside our growing use of digital channels, we will continue to offer more traditional channels of contact, including the telephone and post, as well as a range of different engagement methods including public meetings, site visits and written correspondence. In addition, we will work alongside colleagues in the Library Service to ensure we are making the best use of our local libraries and connecting residents with the face-to-face support available locally, including support to use digital services.

Finally, we will continue to ensure that resident insight and research shapes our approach, so that we are responding to the needs of our customers and putting them at the heart of what we do.

Matt Furniss
Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure
22 February 2022

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