

## **Consultation on Highways Diversions**

Report of the Head of Highways, Capital Development and Waste

***Please note that the following recommendation is subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.***

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Committee notes the proposed improvements to liaison with local Members regarding major events and works on the strategic highway network.

### **1. Background/Introduction**

On 11 September 2014, Devon hosted Stage 5 of this year's Tour of Britain Cycle Race. Although it has been widely recognised as another very successful Devon stage, concerns were raised by local Members surrounding the traffic management that was required to stage the finish of the race in Exeter.

As a result of these concerns a meeting was held with two of the Members and two Officers from the Highways and Traffic Management Team.

During the meeting further concerns were raised about communication of other closures on the strategic network, with recent works on Heavitree Road being cited.

### **2. Tour of Britain**

This was the fourth year that the County Council had hosted a complete Stage of the Tour of Britain Cycle Race. Prior to 2011, Devon had hosted either a start or finish or, as was the case in 2008, only a part of the race. The Devon Stage this year had a start in Exmouth and the finish was in the High Street in Exeter.

It was clear that the route would present a significant challenge to deliver without disruption to the day to day traffic movements in the City. In order that the finish infrastructure could be erected, there was a requirement for a number of road closures to be put in place from early in the morning of the day of the race. A number of technical meetings were held with various agencies, including the Finish Manager from the Tour of Britain, to determine the timings for all these closures so as to minimise the disruption to the City. A traffic management plan was produced and all information relating to the closures and their timings was put in a letter and sent to a number of residents and businesses in the city. A copy of this letter was also sent to the relevant Exeter City Councillors. In keeping with our standard procedures, a copy of the Temporary Traffic Order for the whole event was sent to all the appropriate County Councillors.

### **3. Proposal**

It is acknowledged that, although all relevant information was sent to elected Members in Exeter and along the route, due to the impact that this event was going to have on the City, particularly the central area, it would have been beneficial to have set up a meeting with the Local Members to discuss the traffic management arrangements for the day to ensure they would had a clear understanding of what was to be put in place and the potential impact.

It has been agreed that, for any future major events in the City, requiring long term road closures, local Members will be invited to a meeting to ensure they are fully appraised on the temporary restrictions that will be necessary to facilitate the event. They will also have the opportunity to get a better understanding of the event itself. Equally, where any works are planned and are likely to cause significant disruption on the strategic network, Members will have this brought to their attention, and given the opportunity to comment on the proposals, independently of any standard release of information.

#### **4. Equality Considerations**

No new policies are being recommended in this report. The improvements are anticipated to improve safety and accessibility for all road users. No adverse impacts on any particular group are therefore expected.

#### **5. Legal Considerations**

The lawful implications of the proposals have been considered and taken into account in the preparation of this report.

David Whitton  
Head of Highways, Capital Development and Waste

#### **Electoral Divisions: All in Exeter**

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
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Nil

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