

Road Closures in the City

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 report be noted.

1. Introduction

At the meeting of this Committee on 9 November 2015, it was resolved that, inter alia, a report be submitted to this meeting regarding the local concerns as a result of the number of road closures affecting important arterial routes within the City.

2. Background

The comments centre around perceived problems that occurred the on the weekend of 7 and 8 November where concerns were expressed regarding Blackboy Road, Pinhoe Road and in Heavitree.

3. Roadworks for the weekend of 7 and 8 November

Enquiries have been made with the Highways Coordination Team and the following works have been identified as taking place over this weekend:

- (i) Sidwell Street – road closure in place for the drainage works that had started on 19 October.
- (ii) Pinhoe Road/Blackboy – works were being carried out at this junction to upgrade the traffic signals, but did not require a road closure.
- (iii) Fore Street/Butts Road/Whipton Lane, Heavitree – temporary traffic lights while the permanent lights were being upgraded, again, no road closure in place.
- (iv) East Wonford Hill – Vodaphone were working on this road and as this road is traffic sensitive all year round Monday to Saturday, they were only able to work in the carriageway on a Sunday. Here again, there was no road closure.

4. Comment

The Traffic Management Act 2004 ('the Act') was introduced with the specific aim of reducing congestion and disruption on the road network. The Act established various responsibilities and duties for local transport authorities that, in essence, aim to ensure that all activities affecting the local road network are planned, co-ordinated and executed effectively.

In May 2009 Devon County Council published its first Network Management Plan. Whilst this was not a statutory document, it was seen as good practice to set out how the authority would apply the principles of the Traffic Management Act and Network Management Duty.

The document lays out the project management process that must be followed in order to provide some consistency and clarity in programme delivery with the aim of ensuring that all programmes/projects and projects promoted by DCC are effectively planned and programmed in order to minimise disruption to the travelling public and realise efficiency savings by combining projects wherever possible.

It has to be recognised that a great deal of work has recently been carried out throughout the city to upgrade many of the traffic signalled controlled junctions. In order that the work could all be completed, it has been necessary for some schemes to be carried out at the same time. While all these works were being carried out, temporary traffic signals were installed to ensure traffic was still able to pass through the junctions. None of these schemes required road closures. The only other road closures that were in place for this weekend were the two temporary road closures to facilitate the two Remembrance Day Parades in the City and these were in the High Street/Queen Street and Church Road Alphington. Furthermore, there were no reports to the Highways Operations and Control Centre of any undue hold ups to traffic as a result of roadworks on the network in the City over this period.

5. Conclusions

A detailed report on road closure protocol was put before this Committee at its meeting on 22 April 2014 and it is acknowledged that members reiterated their request that in accordance with the protocol, Officers need to inform local Councillors of impending road closures at the earliest opportunity.

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Electoral Divisions: All in Exeter

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
HATOC Report	22 April 2014	HCW/14/32

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sc/cr/road closures in the city
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