

Network Management Plan

Report of the Executive Director of Environment, Economy and Culture

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

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Network Management Plan be noted and supported for adoption by the County Council.

1. Summary

The Network Management Plan is a document that demonstrates how the current policies and procedures employed by the County Council enable it to deliver the requirements of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and manage the highway network to ensure the expeditious movement of traffic. It does not replace the Local Transport Plan or provide a funding mechanism.

2. Background/Introduction

The Executive resolved on 4 November 2008 that the draft Devon Network Management Plan for 2008/11, *Keeping Devon Moving*, be noted and referred to HATOCS for observation and comment prior to approval by the Executive.

The Traffic Management Act 2004 (TMA) was introduced with the main objective of 'keeping traffic moving'. The TMA also introduces a 'Network Management Duty' on Local Traffic Authorities to '*as far as reasonably practicable, secure the expeditious movement of traffic on its road network and to facilitate the same on the networks of others*', which requires them to effectively manage all activities on the network in order to minimise disruption and delay to the travelling public. Executive approved a report on 6 September 2005 (ED/05/175/HQ) to provide a clear approach to the new duty and the TMA.

3. Proposal

The Network Management Plan has been developed in response to the Network Management Duty of the Traffic Management Act 2004. It is designed to be an operational document that demonstrates how the various policies and procedures support the delivery of the TMA and how the Authority is structured to deliver its requirements. It therefore draws together all of the tools that are currently being employed by the Council to demonstrate how we manage the highway network in Devon. It will provide Central Government and the public with the confidence to see how the authority has integrated its thinking and planning and how it intends to discharge its duty under the TMA.

The network management plan is not designed as a document to secure further funding and therefore does not replace the Local Transport Plan.

It is proposed that the County Council adopts the plan in order to provide a robust framework for managing the highway network and delivering its responsibilities under the TMA.

4. Consultations/Representations

There is a requirement for a 'whole authority approach' and to that end, all departments involved in the procurement, design or regulation of works on or affecting the highway have been engaged in the development of the plan. In addition to which, the Traffic Manager has engaged with Utilities, the Term Maintenance Contractor, Highways Agency, adjoining authorities, event organisers and other suppliers of highway related services in order to ensure that there is a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities and a 'joined up' approach to network management.

5. Financial Considerations

Improved management of the highway network including direction and co-ordination of activities on the highway and travel information should see an improvement to journey time reliability thus benefiting the local economy. More robust control over the repair of the highway asset following Statutory Undertakers activities will ensure the integrity of the highway structure and reduce the cost of repair to the County Council.

6. Sustainability Considerations

The adoption and application of the plan will help to better manage the network, reduce disruption and congestion to the travelling public and improve the prospects of more reliable journey times for the travelling public.

7. Carbon Impact Considerations

The Network Management Plan is designed to ensure the expeditious movement of traffic on the highway network. Therefore there should be a positive effect by reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality.

8. Equality Considerations

The Network Management Plan will be applied equally to all works promoters operating on or adjacent to the public highway including work for and commissioned by Devon County Council.

There are no new policies being introduced in this plan and as such an Equality Impact & Needs Assessment is not considered necessary.

9. Legal Considerations

This Network Management Plan demonstrates the way in which the County Council manages the highway network in Devon and reflects current legislation and regulations as laid down by the Secretary of State.

10. Discussion

The production of the Network Management Plan, demonstrates the Council's commitment to delivering the Traffic Management Act and in particular the network management duty. The Secretary of State expects to see local traffic authorities demonstrate how they are complying with the duty.

Devon's Traffic Manager has held the chair of the regional traffic managers forum since its inception in 2004 and represents the South West at the national traffic managers forum. By preparing, publishing, adopting and applying this plan it is demonstrating that Devon is at the forefront of network management in the region and is recognised as a leading authority throughout the country.

11. Options/Alternatives

It is an option, at this time, not to produce a Network Management Plan, however, it is considered best practice to do so and indeed it clearly demonstrates the Council's commitment to delivering the duty.

12. Reason for Recommendation/Conclusion

The Network Management Plan provides clear guidance for all works promoters and demonstrates the Council's commitment to delivering the network management duty.

Edward Chorlton

Electoral Divisions: All

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

List of Background Papers

Contact for enquiries: Mike Parnell/Chris Cranston

Room No: AB1 Lucombe House, County Hall

Tel No: (01392) 38 3377 /5038

Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
Traffic Management Act 2004	22 July 2004	Department for Transport
Department for Transport Consultation: 'Network Management Duty Guidance'	28 September 2004	ED/04/212/HQ
Network Management Duty Guidance	November 2004	Department for Transport
Agenda for Change: Review of the Network Management Structure	6 September 2005	ED/05/175/HQ
Civil Parking Enforcement: New Responsibilities	17 October 2006	ED/06/168/HQ
Temporary Road Closures: Special Events Act 1994	10 September 2007	ED/07/241/HQ
Civil Parking Enforcement: Application for Civil Enforcement Powers and Service Delivery	6 November 2007	ED/07/306/HQ
Temporary Road Closures: Special Events Act 1994	8 April 2008	EEC/08/91/HQ
Network Management Plan	4 November 2008	EEC/08/264/HQ

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