

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## REPORT TO: CABINET

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	16 February 2010
<b>Report of:</b>	Strategic Director, Places
<b>Subject/Title:</b>	Highways and Transportation – Links to Local Area Partnerships
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Councillor J Macrae and Councillor Rod Menlove

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### **1.0 Report Summary**

- 1.1 On 17<sup>th</sup> December, Council remitted the appended motion to Cabinet, under the Council's standing orders.
- 1.2 This report outlines an approach for implementation of local engagement on highways and transportation issues across Cheshire East. The report proposes that a Highways and Transportation Forum is established in each of the Local Area Partnership Areas with a remit will be to promote issues relating to local highway investment priorities, traffic management and public transport arrangements. The forums are not intended to be formal decision-making bodies.
- 1.3 The report also recommends that a Cheshire East Transport Forum is established to bring together transport operators across the Borough with the Council to discuss strategic transport issues.

### **2.0 Decision Requested**

- 2.1 That Cabinet:
  - 2.1.1 Consider the Motion from Council.
  - 2.1.2 Agree to support Local Area Partnerships in the development of a Highways and Transportation Forum in each local area to promote local issues relating to local investment priorities, traffic management and public transport arrangements
  - 2.1.3 Agree to establish a Cheshire East Transport Forum to bring together transport operators across the Borough with the Council to discuss strategic transport issues.

### **3.0 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 To ensure effective local engagement in the development of highways and transportation priorities across Cheshire East.

#### **4.0 Wards Affected**

- 4.1 All Wards are potentially affected by the proposal

#### **5.0 Local Ward Members**

- 5.1 All Ward Members are potentially affected by the proposal. This proposal will work within the current Member Protocol.

#### **6.0 Policy Implications**

- 6.1 No policies are directly affected however the development of future policy will benefit from more direct local engagement through the approach recommended in this report.

#### **7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs**

- 7.1 There are no transition costs related to this report.

#### **8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)**

- 8.1 All resource implications associated with this report will be managed within existing resources within the Policy and Performance/Places Directorates.

#### **9.0 Legal Implications**

- 9.1 There are no changes recommended relating to the Council's decision making arrangements or any implications for the Council's constitution.
- 9.2 The forums are not intended to be formal decision-making bodies. It is intended that, when they wish to do so, the forums will make their views known to the Portfolio Holder.

#### **10.0 Risk Management**

- 10.1 There are limited risks associated with the approach recommended. It will be for each Local Area Partnership to determine how best to utilise the new arrangements to meet local needs.

#### **11.0 Background and Options**

- 11.1 On 17<sup>th</sup> December, Council remitted the appended motion to Cabinet.

The constitution of the Council delegates highways and transportation policy development and investment decisions to the Cabinet and Portfolio Holders for Environment and Prosperity.

- 11.2 Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009, local engagement in the development of future highway investment priorities has taken place directly with local Members who have produced Ward Improvement list that are currently being appraised as part of the highway investment programme development for 2010/11.
- 11.3 There has also been active engagement by the Highways team in some Local Area Partnerships but as yet there is no consistent form of ongoing engagement on transport and highways issues at a local level across Cheshire East.
- 11.4 On 17<sup>th</sup> December, the appended motion was considered by Council which is required to be referred to Cabinet for consideration. This paper outlines the following approach which does not include delegation of decision-making but active engagement in the development of policy to inform the decision-making of the Executive Members and Cabinet.
- 11.5 This approach seeks to address the issues raised by the Motion and seeks to enhance local engagement as proposed.
- 11.5 It is proposed that a Highways and Transportation Forum is developed in each of the local area partnership areas, which will provide an opportunity for local Members, partners and members of the public to raise local issues and engage directly with key officers within the Council on all aspects of transport and highways issues.
- 11.6 Each Forum will be developed with the individual LAP and facilitated by the Local Area Partnerships team. There will be a named key contact within the Highways Team who will be the principle officer responsible for engagement with each Forum. This contact will be supported by additional officers as determined by the local issues raised.
- 11.7 The regularity of meetings will be determined at the local level, and should balance local need with resource availability.
- 11.8 It also proposed that a Cheshire East Public Transport Forum is established to bring together road and rail transport operators across the Borough with the Council to discuss public transport issues. The Forum will also invite representatives from Cheshire West and Chester Council and AGMA colleagues where cross border issues apply. This Forum will meet at least twice a year and include representation from each Local Area Partnership. This Forum will be facilitated by the Council's Strategic Highways and Transportation Team.
- 11.9 If it were proposed, as called-for in the motion, that formal decision-making bodies should be established to deal with highways functions, a further report would need to be made to Cabinet which fully sets out the legal and Constitutional implications.

Name: Caroline Simpson  
Designation: Head of Regeneration  
Tel No: 01270 686640  
Email: Caroline.simpson@cheshireeast.gov.uk

## **Appendix 1**

### **NOTICE OF MOTION**

Consideration was given to the following Notice of Motion moved by Councillor A Moran and seconded by Cllr Flude:-

This Council calls upon the Executive to recognise the need to improve the conduct of decision-making and consultation in relation to all matters relating to the Council's responsibilities as a Highways Authority and its responsibilities through its Transport Policies.

In particular, the Council calls upon the Executive Members with responsibility for Strategic Planning and the Environment to recommend the establishment of bodies, which would effectively carry out the public functions which were previously the responsibility of the three Joint Highways Committees and

the Public Transport Liaison Committees, within the area now governed by

Cheshire East. These responsibilities should include the public consideration of decisions in relation to parking, Traffic Regulation Orders, Speed limits and engineering improvements and all other matters where effective transparent consultation and decision making is required.

The Council asks for Committees of local Councillors to be established in each of the previous areas covered by Macclesfield, Congleton and Crewe and Nantwich Borough Councils and provision to be made for the involvement of the police and where relevant town and Parish Councils. The Committees to be empowered to receive and consider representations by the public where these are appropriate.

### **RESOLVED**

That the motion stand referred to Cabinet.