

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....19th June 2008

1. Title of Item/Report

Network Management Plan

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report relating to the Network Management Plan.

In September 2005, Cabinet received a report on the implications of the Traffic Management Act 2004. In particular, Members noted the potential for intervention by the Secretary of State if it was considered that the Council was failing to adequately perform its statutory Network Management Duty. Subsequently, the Department for Transport issued its Intervention Criteria in 2007 under which the Council's performance would be assessed.

It was explained that the Traffic Management Act introduced a Network Management Duty on local traffic authorities. Members were provided with the details of Section 16 of the Act which set out the requirement of the new duty.

Members were advised that whilst there was no statutory requirement to develop a Network Management Plan, it set out the processes that the Council employed to meet the Council's duty and would be assessed by Government Office North East as part of the Local Transport Plan Progress Report later this year. It also demonstrated high level commitment to the duty and provided both a framework for consultation with stakeholders and a performance monitoring regime to drive improvement.

It was explained that the Network Management Plan, if approved, would be used to consult with key stakeholders and further enhancements arising from the consultation and the current Scrutiny process would be incorporated in the document over the forthcoming months. It would demonstrate the Council's commitment to its Network Management Duty and would form the basis of a submission as part of the Council's Local Transport Plan Progress Report that would be submitted to the Department for Transport before the end of 2008.

Members were provided with an outline of the key elements of the Council's first Network Management Plan.

RESOLVED that:-

(i) The draft Network Management Plan, as a basis for consultation with key stakeholders, be endorsed.

(ii) The Corporate Director for Development and Neighbourhood Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Transport be authorised to approve any changes to the Plan arising from the consultation process prior to submission to GO-NE in December 2008.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The Council now has a statutory duty under the Traffic Management Act 2004 to secure the expeditious movement of traffic on its highway network.

The Government has also put in place powers of intervention if it considers that the Council is not performing this duty satisfactorily.

The Network Management Plan outlines how the Council intends to fulfil this new obligation and forms the basis of its submission to GO-NE later this year as part of the Council's Local Transport Plan Progress Report. Demonstration of the Council's commitment to the strategy contained in the Plan is essential to the submission.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not Applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Not later than Midnight on Friday 27 June 2008

Proper Officer

23 June 2008