

STC Planning & Highways (P&H) Committee Meeting Wednesday 1 March 2023

Agenda Item No. **108**: Highways Report* (comprising this x1 (one) page)

Section A: Highways Maintenance and Improvement Category

For Action: Southwell Traffic Management Plan (STMP) 23/24

i) Cllrs will recall that copies of the Nov '22 P&H-approved version of STMP 23/24 were sent during Dec '22 to Cllr Jackson (NCC), Joanne Horton (NCC) and Aidan O'Connor (Via EM) to tie-in /assist with the Highways Liaison meetings now forming into regular pattern - previous ones held 20/5/22, 14/10/22 and the most recent on 31/1/23.

ii) At last month's (Feb '23) P&H meeting, Cllrs supported a proposal that an item-by-item response to Via EM's spreadsheet assessment of the STMP proposals, first received by Clerk on 6/1/23, should be prepared and submitted by the authors of this report asap, and such that it could be considered and discussed at this March P&H meeting.

iii) Accordingly, copies of an 'item-by-item briefing paper', making observations and recommendations on each of the responses from Via EM in their spreadsheet (and reflecting the green/amber/red 'traffic light' colour coding system), were sent to P&H Chair, Clerk, Cllr Scorer (who Chaired the Feb P&H meeting) and Cllr Brock (who fed-back at the Feb P&H about the Highways Liaison meeting held 31/1/23).

iv) Hopefully, as envisaged, all P&H Cllrs have each been supplied with a copy of this briefing paper, such that the observations/recommendations can now be discussed and the Committee's current position on each settled prior to the next Highways Liaison meeting.

Section B: Environmental Weight Restriction/ HGV Reporting Category: **To note:**

i) Cllrs will recall that the Information Commissioner was asked to investigate Notts CC's handling of a Freedom of Information (FOI) request about HGV reports via a submission dated 31/8/22.

ii) Following ack'ment of receipt on 31/8/22, and a progress report on 27/1/23 (paraphrased via a verbal update to 1/2/23 P&H), the Commissioner issued his x13 (thirteen) page 'Decision Notice' on 9/2/23.

iii) In what might be considered a surprising decision, the Commissioner has ruled that, in relation to the request for information regarding the reasons for two periods during which Notts CC suspended work on processing of HGV reports submitted via the authority's own 'Lorry Watch' system (ie between 21/6 and 8/8/21, plus between 6/12/21 and 12/4/22, and thus meaning x23 reports about possible HGV abuses in Southwell were not processed), it was within its right to withhold the information as regards the first period as it amounts to 'personal information' (exempt under FOI Act), and, for the second pause, for the purpose of 'safeguarding national security'.

iv) The submission of an Appeal (required by 2/3/23) is currently being considered.

Section C: Speed Limit Enforcement Category: **To note:**

A meeting of the Safer Neighbourhood Group (SNG), the 'umbrella' for Speedwatch, took place Thurs 15/12/22 in The Old Court House, where a draft programme for 2023 (issued 10/12/22), including the need for PCSO and NSDC contributions by end Jan '23, was discussed prior to finalisation ready for March '23 start. **No inputs from PCSOs and NSDC have been received and will therefore be chased.**

*Approved by P&H Chair for inclusion on Agenda and circulation to P&H members prior to meeting. Prepared in liaison with Paul Mackintosh and Tom Whitmore following P&H agreement on 7/4/21.

END OF MARCH 2023 P&H HIGHWAYS REPORT (BASE DATED 20/2/23)