

Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee

20th June 2018

Briefing Note: Update on the Final Report and Recommendations of the Working Together to Address the Impact of Heavy Goods Vehicles/HCVs on Roads in Staffordshire

Issue

To provide an update to the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee on the action plan and implementation of the recommendations of the Working Together to Address the Impact of Heavy Goods Vehicles/HCVs on Roads in Staffordshire final report.

Background

In 2015 the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee agreed to undertake a scrutiny review concerning the impact of heavy goods vehicles on Staffordshire's roads. Whilst the committee is not a decision making body, it did make 24 recommendations in the form of an action plan.

The Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee proposed to monitor the action plan on a 6 monthly exception basis until all recommendations are implemented.

The previous action plan update to the committee was provided in September 2016 and confirmed that 11 of the recommendations would be completed by the end of 2016, 7 were subject to the ongoing 'business as usual' activities of the county council and 6 recommendations were outstanding due to significant resource implications.

In summary the 6 outstanding recommendations were:

1. To refresh the Staffordshire Freight Strategy and associated action plan.
2. To undertake work on the 'Further Considerations' identified in the A515 Weight Restriction, Wood End Lane to B5017 Option Review Report produced by Amey in May 2015.
3. To engage in discussions with businesses local to the A515 regarding road freight routing.
4. To include an update on the use of satellite navigation systems in the refreshed Staffordshire Freight Strategy.
5. To consider Staffordshire's lorry parks and facilities for HGV drivers as part of the refresh of the Staffordshire Freight Strategy.
6. To lobby Staffordshire MPs to act on the issue of the impact that HGVs are having on roads and communities in Staffordshire.

Current Position

Since 2016 resources have been allocated to progress further work focussing on the A515 through Staffordshire, updating the Staffordshire Freight Strategy, engaging with local communities and businesses, and lobbying Members of Parliament regarding the county's HGV concerns.

The Staffordshire Freight Strategy has been refreshed to include information on satellite navigation systems and their impacts on road freight, facilities for HGV drivers including lorry parks, and local community issues as part of a revised action plan. The draft strategy is currently with the appropriate Cabinet Member for consideration.

Traffic surveys have been completed at the main junctions along the A515 and recommendations have been made to implement experimental left turn/right turn 7.5T weight restrictions at the following junctions:

- A515/B5016 at Yoxall
- A515/A513 at Kings Bromley
- A515/Wood End Lane west of Fradley

Scheme implementation is planned to commence in October 2018.

Discussions with businesses local to the A515 corridor have taken place via the Fradley Business Forum.

In terms of lobbying Staffordshire's MPs on the issue of HGV impacts on the county's roads and communities, Councillor Mark Deaville, Cabinet Member for Commercial has written to Michael Fabricant MP and Andrew Griffiths MP on these subjects with specific information concerning the A515 and A513 and the impacts of HGVs on local communities in the vicinity of these routes. Councillor Deaville specifically outlined Staffordshire's asks for improvements along the A38(T) which could help to alleviate issues relating to HGVs that are experienced along the A515 corridor.

Conclusion

The Staffordshire Freight Strategy updated action plan will remain a 'live' document reflecting the priorities and delivery of interventions relating to HGV impacts across the county with regular updates planned.

The formation of the Staffordshire Freight and Communities Forum in 2017 will facilitate ongoing positive and constructive multi-agency discussions, including liaison with businesses regarding HGV traffic in Staffordshire and help to identify priorities for action.

Although an option to alleviate concerns relating to HGVs on the A515 has been developed, it is yet to be delivered on site, with implementation planned in autumn 2018.

The County Council will continue to issue considered responses to the Traffic Commissioners in relation to consultations on HGV operators' license applications and provide clear advice on new developments involving property served off the rural road network taking into account HGV impacts on local communities.

The recommendations of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee have been appropriately considered and progressed to the betterment of Staffordshire's freight haulage network and local communities.

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