

Local Members' Interest
N/A

Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee - Thursday 15 November 2018

Staffordshire Freight Strategy 2018

Recommendation

1. That the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee considers the content of the updated Staffordshire Freight Strategy and provides comments prior to it being formally adopted.

Report of Helen Fisher, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

Summary

What is the Select Committee being asked to do and why?

2. The free movement of road and rail freight has an important role to play in delivering the County Council's Strategic Plan 2018-22 to ensure that the benefits of economic growth are felt by Staffordshire residents.
3. The Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee has previously recognised the environmental impact of road and rail freight and requested a refresh of the existing Freight Strategy. This was one of a package of 24 recommendations.
4. Updates to the strategy include information on satellite navigation technologies, HS2, road freight usage and the Department for Transport's recent Major Road Network consultation.

Report

Background

5. In 2015 the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee agreed to undertake a scrutiny review concerning the impact of heavy goods vehicles on Staffordshire's roads. It made 24 recommendations in the form of an action plan
6. One of these recommendations was a refresh of the existing Staffordshire Freight Strategy and associated action plan (published in 2010). The Portfolio holder agreed that, subject to resources, the strategy would be reviewed and submitted to a future meeting on the Prosperous Staffordshire Scrutiny Committee for their consideration. The attached strategy considers both road and rail based freight activities.
7. This refresh has now been undertaken and the document reviewed to specifically include information on the use of satellite navigation systems, lorry parking facilities, local community concerns and HS2 all of which have been raised as particular areas of interest by Scrutiny Committee members.

8. It is the intention that the action plan element of the strategy remains a 'live' document reflecting the changing priorities and interventions relating to freight impacts across Staffordshire and as such will be subject to review as resources permit.

Link to Strategic Plan

9. Staffordshire's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 sets out a vision for a Connected Staffordshire where everyone has the opportunity to prosper, be healthy and happy. It identifies that the people of Staffordshire will:

- a. Access more good jobs and feel the benefits of economic growth
- b. Be healthier and more independent
- c. Feel safer, happier and more supported in and by their community.

10. Road and rail freight has an important role to play in delivering this vision. The significant demand for products by residents and businesses within Staffordshire and the employment opportunities provided make logistics a vital sector to maintain and grow.

Community Impact

11. This report provides a status update on the refresh of the Staffordshire Freight Strategy and is not proposing a change to any county council policy or service. As such a full assessment of community impact is not considered relevant in this instance. However, the overall benefits of updating the strategy to reflect current trends does contribute to delivering the county council's Strategic Plan objectives and therefore is deemed to represent an overall positive impact to local communities.

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List of Background Papers:

Appendix A - Draft Staffordshire Freight Strategy 2018