

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 17 February 2009

Subject: Civil Engineering and Maintenance Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Richard Bassett

Item: 7(c)

Recommendation:

That the report of the Civil Engineering and Maintenance Portfolio Holder be noted.

I am pleased to report that the revised parking review documentation will be available starting this month with the Council now being in possession of a copy of the Epping parking review with Buckhurst Hill and Broadway being available early February. We also have received a draft timetable for the Epping review with an outline plan which means we should be in a position to start public consultation at the end of March with plans to implement agreed proposals following the public consultation by the end of October.

I previously mentioned we now have been informed that the Council will be in the next group to participate in the Highways localism project and this will be with effect from the financial year 2009/10 highway budgets. As such I have already started discussions to look at how we can implement this. I also have been to Brentwood to meet their Highways Panel and observe their meeting and I have held a discussion with their officers and chairman on some of the practicalities. I will continue to work on this and then prepare a proposal on how it will be set up. As previously stated like last year we will be asking for the biggest highways issues in your area so we can start to provide a collated list of items for the new highways panel to consider.

Whilst we are still waiting for Essex Traffic Management and Freight Management Strategies we have seen the publication of a Draft Speed Management Strategy. This can be accessed online at http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/content/binaries/documents/Draft_Speed_Management_Strategy.pdf and I will put a copy in the Members' Room for comment as we have until 13 February to comment. This is a really useful document that attempts to lay out the strategies for what speed limits should apply where and also information on signage and line markings.

I have also asked that the regular update meetings with highways produce a document with progress and project plan status for works which will be provided for members to check on work in their area.

During January I have been meeting with several resident groups and councilors to discuss local issues and this has proved very informative and productive I have met with Ongar Town Council to look at their parking issues, Residents in Loughton and Hazelwood on local problems. I also have received many emails from residents on issues and I try to answer all of these as soon as possible. Should you wish me to meet with people in your area on an issue I am only too willing to see what I can do to help.