

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**NEIGHBOURHOODS
CABINET MEMBER**

STREET WORKS MANAGEMENT PERMIT SCHEME

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to implement the Yorkshire Common Permit Scheme for North Lincolnshire Roads.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 In January 2015, the former Cabinet Member for Highways and Neighbourhoods authorised officers to investigate the adoption of a Common Permit Scheme for North Lincolnshire. The decision was linked to the staffing review aiming to integrate the Highways and Neighbourhood Services (H&NS) teams together. This review is now complete.

2.2 Implementing a permit scheme will improve the co-ordination of works on our roads, reduce disruption to our road users, assist public transport and help to reduce carbon emissions, resulting in the following benefits:

- Economic Growth
Greater control and co-ordination of road and street works will reduce traffic congestion and improve traffic flow and journey time reliability. This is particularly important on routes to key employment areas (for example the South Humber Gateway and industrial areas around Scunthorpe) and the main retail centres in North Lincolnshire, to support and maintain economic activity.
- Environment and Sustainability
Improving traffic flow will help to reduce vehicle emissions, which in turn will improve the local air quality.
- Safety and Security
Better control and co-ordination of road and street works will hopefully help to improve road safety during the works periods and reduce accidents.

- Equal opportunities
Reducing congestion and improving journey times will help people to access the services and facilities they need, either by private or public transport, at the times they need.
- Health and Wellbeing
Improving the local air quality will help to improve people's health. Maintaining good access to employment and key services during periods of road and street works will also help people's general health and wellbeing.

2.3 The Department for Transport (DfT) have sought to deregulate permit schemes via the Deregulation Act 2015. This allows local authorities the discretion to sign off local permit schemes rather than applying for permission from government, through an order.

2.4 Following a review of the traffic sensitive network in the autumn, officers have now completed work on joining the scheme previously reported as providing the best fit for North Lincolnshire's needs, the "Yorkshire Common Permit Scheme" (YCPS). The YCPS operates across a number of local authorities. This has the benefit of:

- Removing lengthy development of our own scheme
- Provides consistency for utilities
- Peer support and development
- Still allows the setting of our own fees and administration
- Benchmarking

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 **Option one** – To move forward with the implementation of the scheme in February 2015

3.2 **Option two** – Continue with existing arrangements.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 **Option one** – adopting the YCPS for North Lincolnshire, as operated by various other local authorities, is the most suitable option. The majority of local authorities across the country are moving towards introducing permit schemes.

4.2 Adopting this scheme will improve the management of our highway network and assist in the achievement of the Local Transport Plan.

4.3 **Option two** – If we chose to not adopt the YCPS then the current system of noticing works would continue. This would have both financial and structural implications for the new H&NS area. Without the permit scheme in place there would be reduced capacity to control road works and traffic disruption.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 Financial – The introduction of fees and charges for permits would be cost neutral. However additional income from section 74 breaches, inspection fees, defects and notices is anticipated and has already been assumed in future base budgets.
- 5.2 The permit scheme would also yield longer term benefits linked to better reinstatement works, avoiding costs in the future for the council.
- 5.3 Staffing resources to support the introduction of the scheme have already been included within the recent Highways and Neighbourhood Services review.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

- 6.1 There is no requirement for an integrated impact assessment, however the scheme requires a period of consultation with utility companies and other interested parties prior to implementation. This is currently underway.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

- 7.1 Consultation with relevant parties is set out in the procedures for introducing a permit scheme. This has been undertaken and any concerns will be responded to prior to implementation.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the Cabinet Member authorises the Director of Places to implement the Yorkshire Common Permit Scheme for North Lincolnshire subject to completion of the consultation process.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

- Minute 155(32) of the Highways and Neighbourhoods Cabinet Member, dated 26 January 2015 – Street Works Management Permit Scheme
- Guidance and background information on permit schemes can be found on the Department for Transport's website at this address:
<http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/street-works-permits/>
- Yorkshire Common Permit Scheme for Road Works and Street Works