

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**HIGHWAYS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS
CABINET MEMBER**

SUPPORTING ATTRACTIONS AND EVENTS IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To seek agreement from the Cabinet Member as to the best way forward for the council to support community events, in respect of traffic management arrangements.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Highway network is essential to North Lincolnshire's economy. For the majority of the time it functions effectively. Occasionally, volumes of traffic can increase causing localised short term problems.
- 2.2 An example is when attractions and events, like shows, take place. These bring additional visitors and road users that often need managing. The peaks in volume can create difficulties for all road users, making journey times difficult to quantify. They can also be detrimental to the attractiveness of the event itself if not effectively managed.
- 2.3 Events and attractions are an integral part of community life. Most are well organised. Event committees or groups spend many hours trying to ensure that the event experience is enjoyable. An important part of the events group's responsibility is to consider appropriate arrangements for traffic in relation to parking, and entry and exit routes.
- 2.4 The council already supports local event groups to plan events through the Events Safety Advisory Group. This brings together most, if not all, of the relevant agencies that have an interest in event activities in the region.
- 2.5 Event groups need to assess traffic risks. They need to consider at one end of the scale, whether formal traffic management arrangements such as Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders, (TTRO's) are necessary. They also need to consider if these need enhancing by enforcement arrangements. At the other end of the scale they may determine arrangements without TTRO's and enforcement would suffice.

- 2.6 It is inevitable that at most events additional vehicles will access the network and as such will likely require some form of bespoke management. Many events try and ensure parking is available off the highway to minimise traffic disruption. In the past, one of the best ways to help these events has been the deployment of the yellow “**Police No Waiting**” cones on roads adjacent to the event. Historically these could only be deployed and enforced by the police under the powers of Section 67 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act. The council are unable to exercise these powers.
- 2.7 Following change to the legislation around the “decriminalisation” of parking offences, Humberside Police reviewed their practice of putting out cones. They now only deploy and enforce police cones for unforeseen or extraordinary circumstances. Local events do not generally fall under these categories. This means that when local events take place the only option for event organisers to plan for traffic management issues is to seek the services of external traffic management companies.
- 2.8 Utilising external traffic management companies is not necessarily a problem. High profile events already take place on a regular basis such as the Barton Bike Night. They can however prove expensive and not perhaps the best use of funds for organising committees when tackling the levels of risks as identified.
- 2.9 When external traffic management companies are engaged they have to comply with Traffic Management legislation, including requests for orders (TTRO’s) to make cones enforceable etc. This process can take up to three months and cost in excess of £1,000. The Traffic Management Act states there are no exceptions for charitable events. The same procedure must be adhered to and all administrative costs met by the organiser.
- 2.10 Officers in Highways have considered how the council might help event organisers. As a result it is proposed that once the event committee has considered the level of risk then Highways can offer two route options for organisers to consider. Support and advice from Network Management staff around appropriate arrangements can also be provided if requested.
- The first would be to continue with a formal TTRO route which would necessitate a payment to cover any order required and if necessary supplement this with enforcement support.
 - The second would be to offer a delivery and placement of cones service out to event organisers. This service would not have any formal powers and as such could not be formally enforced. It would however be simple to operate, potentially cheaper and would meet any council concerns in terms of traffic management responsibility.

2.11 Investigations in relation to how other authorities are dealing with this challenge revealed that one council, Aberdeen City Council, already operates a similar cone supply service. It is proposed that the council put in place a very similar service offer as outlined in Appendix 1.

3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

3.1 **Option one** – Do nothing.

3.2 **Option two** – Introduce a cone supply service operated and managed by the council.

4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 **Option one** – No changes to current arrangements may have a detrimental effect on local events.

4.2 The council did not provide any assistance for events in the 2014 season and there was only very limited involvement from the Police at events. The council received no reports of significant congestion, even though no cones were put out.

4.3 **Option two** – Supplying and placing no waiting cones out to event organisers provides them with a new option in relation managing their traffic management responsibilities.

4.4 Consultation with the Events Safety Advisory Group for North Lincolnshire has already taken place about the proposal. They are in full support. They are also happy to highlight to interested parties the scheme at their next scheduled meeting and via publicity material.

4.5 It is possible to establish this new service by the 1 April 2015. This would meet the needs of most of the events taking place this year in local communities.

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

5.1 Finance – The new service would make a small charge to cover costs of £100 a week, followed by further daily charge of £50. All enquiries would require a minimum of 48 hours notice as the cones need to be put in place by trained staff with traffic management awareness.

5.2 To establish this service the council would also have purchase approx. 400 cones at a cost of £6,000. Other costs incurred would be covered by the £100 charge. It is anticipated that the one off cost could be contained within existing budgets.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 No negative IIA linked to this decision.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

7.1 The Places Scrutiny Panel has taken a keen interest in the issues raised in this paper. The Panel were presented with a draft copy of this paper at their meeting held on 10 February 2015 and this was received positively.

7.2 Additional consultation around supplementing TTRO's with council enforcement is still required. This can be progressed and considered on a case by case basis once the event organisation group has identified the risk.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the Cabinet Member agrees to the establishment of a support service for local events as outlined in this paper.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: Nil.

Temporary No Waiting Cones

The Council can supply temporary no-waiting cones. Temporary no waiting cones are not subject to parking enforcement and are advisory only (unless a Temporary Traffic Order has been published). The Council cannot assume responsibility for any parking infringements within the area of any temporary no waiting cones after they have been put in position.



Requests for temporary no waiting cones can be made to the call centre and must be at least 48 hours before the actual cones are required. There is a charge for this service:

Cones delivered, set in position and thereafter collected: £100 for first week (or part thereof)

As above but for a period exceeding one week: £50 for every day exceeding the initial seven days.

Cone requests will not be considered unless billing details are supplied at the time of the request. An appropriate invoice will be sent within two weeks of the service being provided. This must be paid within 28 days. The Council will refuse future requests if the initial or any subsequent invoice is not paid.