

ITEM 15 APPENDIX A

HIGHWAY JOINT MEMBER PANELS – SUCCESSOR ARRANGEMENTS

BRIEFING NOTE FROM STUART PILE, EXECUTIVE MEMBER HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

Purpose of Briefing Note

To advise of the potential successor arrangements to Highway Joint Member Panels and the process for determining their introduction

Background

Highway Locality Budgets, have been successfully introduced, firstly in the pilot areas of Dacorum and Broxbourne in 2010/11 and subsequently rolled out to all county divisions for this year.

With the introduction of Highway Locality Budgets, local highway constituency matters are dealt with by the county councillor, with increased engagement with local communities and representatives, including district, borough, town and parish councillors. This has prompted a review and change to the format, role and oversight of the service by Highway Joint Member Panels (HJMPs).

HJMPs in the pilot areas of Broxbourne and Dacorum have been suspended and model successor arrangements trialled in the form of bi – annual Highway Liaison Meetings. I, the Executive Member for Highways and Transport and other senior members of the administration, have attended the January round of the eight remaining HJMPs to outline the county Councils current thoughts on the potential successor arrangements to HJMPs and to obtain feedback.

Process for decision

I have considered the feedback from all of the panels. As advised in my previous note to the Highway Joint Member Panels I am persuaded that the model discussed at the January round of Panels remains the best way forward. I have arranged for a report to be presented to the Highways and Transport Panel on Tuesday 3 July and for its recommendations to be reported to The Cabinet for endorsement on 19 July 2012.

A copy of the report can be found on the following link.

[http://www.hertsdirect.org/your-council/civic_calendar/hightranscp/16963220/
item 4](http://www.hertsdirect.org/your-council/civic_calendar/hightranscp/16963220/item 4)

The recommendations in the report are as follows;

That the Highways and Transport Panel endorses the following recommendations to Cabinet:

That Cabinet:

- (a) approves the introduction of Highway Liaison Meetings, as successor arrangements to Highway Joint Member Panels in all district areas
- (b) agrees that the Chief Executive & Director of Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member Highways and Transport seeks agreement with all district councils for the introduction of Highway Liaison meetings commencing October 2012
- (c) agrees that county officer support and written reports for HJMPs be withdrawn from October where and when possible
- (d) agrees that formal notice be served to terminate the agency agreements providing for HJMPs at the earliest opportunity, where agreement to the introduction of Highway Liaison Meetings cannot be reached.
- (e) approves the continuation of the Highways Locality Budget scheme across the county for 2013/14 and endorses the proposal that:
 - Phase 1 HLB works for 2013/14, up to a maximum of two thirds of each member's HLB, are decided by the incumbent County Councillor and:
 - Phase 2 works, comprising the remaining one third of each member's HLB for 2013/14 are decided by the newly elected county councillor from May 2013.

The County Council is seeking an alternative, but consistent model or framework, to the HJMPs for engagement on district wide and strategic matters, particularly with district, borough and other local elected members. I am hopeful that we can use the Highway Liaison Model as the framework which can be developed to become a useful forum to enable local elected representatives to work together.

Contract Re-procurement Update

My previous briefing note to the March round of HJMPs advised of our choosing Ringway as our preferred bidder for the £35m a year Highway Service Term Contract, one of two main contracts that underpin our transformed highways service

We have now completed the procurement process to award second of the main contracts, the Client Support Term Contract. The preferred bidder is a joint venture between Opus and Arup.

This £8m contract is for engineering support and operational services.

Although it is significantly different to the Mouchel contract, it is the successor to it. It will run for 7-12 years, depending on performance and how the service develops.

Their tendered proposal includes a range of 'quality' proposals with strong areas in quality of leadership, key staff and supporting processes and

systems. They also offer the prospect of added value initiatives in future years, by bringing in experience and ideas.

Although they won the job on the strength of their quality submission, their financial offer is affordable. It has improved significantly through the Competitive Dialogue process.

The mobilisation process for both contracts, which commence on 1 October 2012, is under way. We will continue to work with our existing works contractors to maintain service levels through the transition to the new arrangements

Stuart Pile
Executive Member Highways and Transport