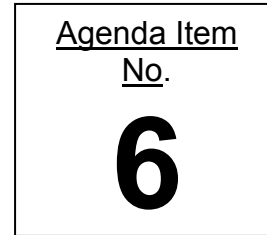


**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**HIGHWAYS CABINET PANEL**  
**WEDNESDAY 7 MARCH 2018 AT 10.00 AM**



**LANE RENTAL CONSULTATION**

*Report of the Chief Executive & Director of Environment*

Author: Steve Johnson, Head of Highways Contracts and Network Management (01992 658115)

Executive Member: Ralph Sangster, Highways

**1. Purpose of report**

The purpose of this report is to:

- Make panel members aware of the Department for Transport (DfT) lane rental scheme developments.

**2. Summary**

- 2.1 The DfT recently carried a consultation exercise on the future of lane rental schemes following a trial in Kent and London.
- 2.2 The DfT are due to publish guidance later this year, allowing other Highway Authorities to apply to operate a lane rental scheme, to further support management of the highway network.
- 2.3 Highways officers will be investigating the option of introducing such a scheme in Hertfordshire, based on the guidance that will be provided later this year.
- 2.4 A further report will be brought to panel once the DfT guidance has been produced and considered.

**3. Recommendation**

- 3.1 The Highways Cabinet Panel is requested to note the contents of the report.

## **4 Background**

- 4.1 Following the consultation on the future of Lane Rental, the Government has decided to proceed with a roll out to other Highway Authorities.
- 4.2 Lane Rental was previously trialled with Transport for London and Kent County Council. The DfT will allow other authorities to bid for and set up lane rental schemes as a way of reducing the impact of street works on the busiest roads at the busiest times.
- 4.3 Any new lane rental scheme will need to be approved by the Secretary of State for Transport in line with existing primary legislation.
- 4.4 The DfT will draft and issue bidding guidance for authorities, that it intends to make available later this year.
- 4.5 It is anticipated that it will typically take an authority around 12 months or so to develop, consult and implement a scheme.
- 4.6 Approval would be subject to certain conditions including:
  - Authorities would need to have a well-run permit scheme, with appropriate fees and which support the delivery of national infrastructure projects (HS2, broadband roll-out etc.);
  - The lane rental scheme would apply to a local authority's own works as well as third party works, as per the trial by Kent and London;
  - Lane rental charges should be used to incentivise work outside of peak times;
  - Schemes must be trialled for a period of time before 'going live' and reviewed annually to ensure charges remain proportionate and are applied to the most congested roads;
  - Lane rental should apply to no more than 5% of the network, as was the case in Kent.

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report. However there will be financial implications associated with setting up and operating a lane rental scheme. These will be included in a future report to the Panel.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessments**

- 6.1 When considering proposals placed before Members it is important that they are fully aware of, and have themselves rigorously considered the equalities implications of the decision that they are taking.
- 6.2 Rigorous consideration will ensure the proper appreciation of any potential impact of that decision on the County Council's statutory obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty. As a minimum this requires decision makers to read and carefully consider the content of any Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) produced by officers.
- 6.3 The Equality Act 2010 requires the Council when exercising its functions to have due regard to the need to:

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

and

- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant, protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.

- 6.4 No equalities implications have been identified in relation to this report, although any changes to the service as a result of the introduction of lane rental scheme may have equality implications which will need to be considered.

### ***Background Information***

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/future-of-lane-rental-schemes-for-roadworks>