

TITLE OF REPORT: Council approach to roads and highways – evidence gathering session – traffic congestion

REPORT OF: Paul Dowling, Strategic Director, Communities and Environment

SUMMARY

This evidence session will provide a summary of the problem of traffic congestion, and the Council's response to it. It considers where it occurs now, where future problems may arise, and what options are available to help reduce it.

Background

1. Vision 2030 sets out the 6 Big Ideas for Gateshead. Transport relates closely to the themes of "City of Gateshead", "Sustainable Gateshead" and "Active and Healthy Gateshead".
2. The Tyne and Wear Local Transport Plan, which sets out the transport policy framework for Gateshead, identifies three main challenges for the transport network:
 - Supporting economic development and regeneration;
 - Addressing climate change;
 - Supporting safe and sustainable communities.
3. Policy CS13 of the Gateshead/Newcastle Core Strategy seeks the enhancement and delivery of an integrated transport network to support sustainable development and economic growth through:
 - Promoting sustainable travel choices;
 - Improving the operation of the transport network and its wider connections;
 - Ensuring new development is located and designed to promote sustainable travel choices, minimise unnecessary car trips, and connect safely to the network.

Purpose of session

4. This evidence session is the second of four looking at the role of the Council and its partners in roads and highways, and considers the issue of traffic congestion. The format of the session will be an initial presentation followed by an opportunity to ask questions and express views on the evidence presented. Council officers from the Development, Transport and Public Protection.
5. Key lines of enquiry to consider include:

- The impact that traffic congestion is having on residents and businesses in Gateshead;
- How the problem can best be managed in the future to support delivery of wider economic and environmental objectives.

Recommendations

6. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to
 - provide their views on the evidence presented.

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