

Wiltshire Council

Full Council

15 February 2022

Item 11 – Business Plan

From Colin Gale

To Cllr Dr Mark McClelland Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste, Street Scene and Flooding

Statement

The draft Business Plan covers the period 2022 to 2032 and has sections on ‘well connected communities’, ‘We take responsibility for the environment’ and ‘We are on the path to carbon neutral (net zero)’. In these sections it is identified that there will be new Local Plans and Local Transport Plans.

Rushall Parish Council raised an issue dated 11th January 2018 which is logged at the Pewsey CATG as an ongoing item which requested a Freight Assessment. On 2nd April 2019 Wiltshire Council advised the CATG’s that the Freight Strategy and the Freight Assessment and Prioritisation Mechanism would be put on hold until 2020. Subsequently the Wiltshire Council Freight Strategy was cancelled and the Freight Management Policy review was placed on hold whilst National Highways considers their own Policy on the trunk road network for the Southwest.

The previous Freight Management Strategy did not include the A342 & A345 as Freight Routes for obvious reasons as the A342 and A345 are not much more than Tarmac Drover’s Trails. Without any form of freight management it is a ‘free-for-all’ with an increasing number of 44 ton HGV’s carving up the verges destroying the roads which are not built for the volume and weight of the transport. Despite the Wiltshire Council claims there is no evidence that anyone is taking responsibility for the environment.

Question (P22-13)

- a) Since this plan is intended to last till 2032 why is there not at least a marker for a Freight Management Strategy at some point in the future? Why does freight movement not feature anywhere in the Business Plan?

Response:

Every local authority in England outside London has an obligation to produce a Local Transport Plan for their area. A Local Transport Plan (LTP) assesses an area’s transport needs and challenges and sets out different ways in which these challenges will be addressed.

The Council has begun work on preparing its next Local Transport Plan (LTP4) .

Department for Transport is publishing guidance in the Spring, and we will need to have due regard to that as and when it emerges.

Unless the guidance suggests otherwise, the format of LTP4 will be a suite of documents, comprising a central policy document that will guide a number of theme strategies.

A new freight strategy will be one of those theme documents, preparation of which will take place later this year, and be available for consultation in the middle of 2023.

- b) The freight issue was registered over 4 years ago and since then has got worse. Since Wiltshire Council are going to work with their partners to protect and enhance the Area's of Outstanding Natural Beauty, noting that the Pewsey Community Area is within the North Wessex Downs AONB doesn't Wiltshire Council at least think that after this elapsed time some interim measures are now warranted.

Response

See response to (a) above.