

North Yorkshire County Council

8 November 2017

**Transport, Economy and Environment
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Chairman's Statement

1. Since my previous statement, the Committee met on 20 July 2017. At the time of writing this statement, the Committee is next scheduled to meet on 31 October 2017. I will be able to provide a verbal update about that meeting at the County Council meeting should that be requested.

Committee – 20 July 2017

Ringway Performance 2016/17

2. We were provided with the results of the Evaluation Panel held in May 2017. Ringway met 10 out of 12 Primary Performance Indicators and seven out of 10 Secondary Performance Indicators in 2016/17. Based on this outcome the term of the contract remains unchanged at nine years, with a contract completion date of 31 March 2021.
3. We queried why specific targets had not been met, in particular the Primary Performance Indicator relating to the percentage of schemes starting on time or better, the Primary Performance Indicator relating to the percentage of schemes finishing on time and the Secondary Performance Indicator relating to percentage of gullies cleaned within 14 calendar days of scheduled cleanse. We were reassured to note that whilst there had been a dip in performance for the two Primary Performance Indicators, the latest figures for this financial year were 100% in April 2017. Rectification Action Plans have been put in place, which Ringway is confident will ensure better results next year.

Highways England

4. The Committee received an annual update from Highways England on improvements carried out on the trunk roads in the county over the past year, chiefly relating to the A64. A member of the team attended to receive questions. Charlotte Milligan, Advisor to Kevin Hollinrake MP, was also invited to the meeting and discussion was held around the recent tragic incidents on the A64, with the relevant Member for the area, County Cllr Caroline Goodrick, asking questions.
5. At long last the dualling of the A64, at least between Hopgrove and Barton Hill, is likely to become a reality by 2023. Highways England now seems to recognise that improvements focused solely on the Hopgrove roundabout would not solve traffic congestion problems. Long awaited safety improvements are also being carried out at the Barton Hill crossroads. Whilst this is all welcome news it is of course no comfort to the families of recent casualties on the A64. Our meeting

came after four people had been killed on the A64 in less than four weeks at the same A64 blackspot. Members voiced loud and clear at the meeting the need for Highways England to act without delay in putting in safety improvements at the remaining A64 accident blackspots, in particular at the Crambeck and Welburn junctions. We called for the two fatal accident investigations to conclude swiftly and in the meantime for Highways England to provide the County Council with an update on progress of those investigations.

6. Longer term we need to keep pushing for the A64 to be dualled to the east coast. The collective voice of the recently launched A64 Growth Partnership will hopefully make progress there. It remains astonishing that the A64 was not dualled to the east coast years ago.

Street Works Permit

7. The Committee was consulted on the County Council's intention to replace the current Street Works notices regime with a permit scheme. We supported the permit scheme and hope that the initiative will substantially reduce the frequency of road closures for road-works. It should not come as too great a surprise to utility companies as they are operating in other parts of the country where similar permit schemes have been introduced.

Committee – 31 October 2017

8. At our next committee meeting we will be receiving and discussing the following items:
 - Overview of the County Council's Adult Learning Service.
 - Vehicle Activated Speed Signs in North Yorkshire.
 - The rail franchise, Rail North and Transport for the North.
 - Airport Consultative Committees' updates: Leeds/Bradford International Airport, Durham and Tees Valley Airport and Robin Hood Airport.

County Councillor Mike Jordan Chairman

Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
County Hall
Northallerton

23 October 2017