

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
Heysham; Lancaster
Central; Lancaster East;
Lancaster Rural East;
Lancaster Rural North;
Lancaster South East;
Morecambe North;
Morecambe South; and
Morecambe West

A683 Completion of Heysham to M6 Link Road Development Consent Order: Requirement for Statutory Consultation upon proposals to make Traffic Regulation Orders prohibiting HGVs from roads forming part of the A6 in central Lancaster and along A589 Morecambe Road east of the link road, except for access - Approval to Consult
(Appendix 'A' refers)

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Executive Summary

Completion of the Heysham to M6 Link Road in autumn 2016 provides a major opportunity to radically change the way that traffic is managed across Lancaster District. The Development Consent Order for the scheme states that the Link Road must not be fully opened to vehicular traffic until the County Council, as scheme promoter, has completed statutory consultation upon proposals to make Traffic Regulation Orders prohibiting HGVs from roads forming part of the A6 in central Lancaster and along A589 Morecambe Road east of the link road, except for access.

In reviewing the opportunities for better management of HGVs following completion of the Link Road, the County Council has undertaken a network wide approach to deliver environmental benefits across Lancaster, Morecambe and Carnforth. The main recommendations of this review form the core of a HGV Movement Strategy on which approval is sought to consult.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport is asked to approve the HGV Movement Strategy as set out at Appendix 'A' for public consultation.

Background and Advice

The Consultation Draft Lancaster District Highways and Transport Masterplan outlines ambitious new plans to see Lancaster city centre and towns of Morecambe, Carnforth and Heysham transformed over the coming years, with much less through traffic, improvements to the city centre gyratory and much greater use of sustainable modes of transport such as park and ride, buses and cycling.

A significant driver of many of these changes will be the completion of the £128m Heysham to M6 Link Road in autumn 2016. One of the largest road construction projects currently managed by a local authority in England, the new road will connect Morecambe and Heysham directly with a reconfigured M6 Junction 34. It also provides a major opportunity to radically change the way that traffic is managed across the district.

The primary objectives of the Heysham to M6 Link Road are to:

- Improve communications between Heysham, Morecambe and the M6 motorway, including improving access to Heysham Port and surrounding areas;
- Facilitate industrial and commercial regeneration and provide employment opportunities;
- Remove a significant volume of traffic from River Lune bridges in Lancaster city centre, and
- Create opportunities for the enhancement of alternative travel modes by relieving the current traffic conditions.

To enable these objectives to be realised, the Development Consent Order for the Link Road scheme requires an action plan of complementary measures to have been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority prior to the Link Road being fully open to traffic. This report must include:

- A review of the city centre gyratory systems;
- An investigation into the extension of the proposed park and ride network beyond the site at Junction 34 of the M6 motorway;
- A detailed feasibility study for a rapid transit route from Lancaster city centre, rail station and bus station to Morecambe and Heysham; and
- A schedule of those measures that are to be implemented.

These measures are intended to ensure that the district as a whole benefits from the opening of the Link Road. Work is underway to ensure this requirement is met.

In addition, the Development Consent Order states that the Link Road must not be fully opened to vehicular traffic until the County Council as scheme promoter has completed statutory consultation upon a proposal to make a Traffic Regulation Order prohibiting HGVs from roads forming part of the A6 in central Lancaster and along A589 Morecambe Road east of the link road, except for access.

In reviewing the opportunities for better management of HGVs following completion of the Link Road, the County Council has undertaken a network wide approach to deliver environmental benefits across Lancaster, Morecambe and Carnforth. This

review is attached at Appendix 'A', the main recommendations of which form the core of a HGV Movement Strategy and on which approval is sought to consult. The consultation will be in respect of restricting HGV access on a wider network than the A6 in central Lancaster and the A589 east of the Link Road.

Following consultation the response to the consultation will be assessed and may possibly require a further report in respect of any Orders to be made.

Consultation

The Consultation Draft Lancaster Highways and Transport Masterplan underwent public consultation between 23rd March and 22nd May 2015.

The proposed HGV Movement Strategy was considered and agreed at a meeting of the Lancaster Local Plan Highways and Transport Working Group at its meeting held on 24th June 2016. The Working Group is comprised of officers from the County Council, Lancaster City Council and Highways England.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

No significant risks have been identified in relation to the proposals contained within this report.

Financial

There are no explicit financial implications.

Legal

If the County Council does not undertake the required statutory consultation on Orders relating to the A6 in central Lancaster and the A589, it will be in breach of the provisions of Statutory Instrument 2013 No 675: The Lancashire County Council (Torrisholme to the M6 Link (A683 Completion of Heysham to M6 Link Road)) Order 2013. The proposed Traffic Regulation Orders for the wider network will need to be consulted on, according to statutory procedure.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
Consultation Draft Lancaster Highways and Transport Masterplan	March 2015	Marcus Hudson/01772 530696
A683 Completion of Heysham to M6 Link Road Development Consent Order – Statutory	March 2013	Jonathan Thomas/01772 536611

Instrument 2013 No 675

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A