

Statement by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

20 September 2011

NYCC is seeking to work with the Highways Agency (HA) and district councils on a countywide agreement on the implementation of STIMP. Local Development Frameworks (LDF) will make land use allocations in each of the local planning authority areas which will put additional pressure on the local highway network. The aim is to collect a contribution from every development within each district council area and pool these contributions into 'ring-fenced' pots of funding. This funding will be used to pay for the essential transport infrastructure required in each district to deliver their LDF's.

The level of transport infrastructure required to deliver the LDF allocations, together with the current financial situation facing councils, is such that it would be neither possible nor equitable to secure the improvements using the current approach on a site by site basis. NYCC has asked each district council to identify eligible schemes for pooled contributions under STIMP and to gain approval from its Members to adopt the STIMP approach.

Delivering Development and Growth

The provision of this strategic highway infrastructure is vital to delivering growth and development within Hambleton and will unlock key areas of land for development within the district.

All sites in a pre-defined area (a 'contribution zone') will contribute to the required strategic transport improvements in proportion to the impact that the development is likely to have on the transport network. This will ensure funding is secured in a manner that is consistent and fair.

Implications for Hambleton

It is anticipated that the overall benefits of STIMP for Hambleton will be limited as the LDF is approved. The strategic highway improvements needed are already identified within the LDF and this also indicates how these improvements are to be paid for. Mechanisms for calculating developer contributions are now emerging in relation to North Northallerton Link Road and the Bedale Cycleway. However, STIMP does offer benefits in terms of joint-working with NYCC, efficiencies through the sharing of resources and the expertise of NYCC in delivering strategic highway schemes.

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Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning