

C: REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

Local Transport Plan

- 1 We are setting up Joint Strategy Panels with the relevant District Councils to facilitate the development and promotion of the three rural Area Strategies and to mirror the way the two Urban Area Strategies are managed. I have written to the Districts with proposals. It is intended to hold the Southern Green Belt and Chiltern AONB Panel Meetings during November and the Rural North Bucks one in the New Year.
- 2 The Beaconsfield **Multi-Modal Transportation Study** (BEAMMS) is progressing well. A report describing the results of transport surveys undertaken will be produced and discussed by the next Town Consultation Forum on 10 December.
- 3 A wide ranging consultation exercise on the **Wycombe Transport Strategy Corridor Study** is being carried out on the options to ease congestion and promote public transport along the main corridors into High Wycombe. The consultation has involved a manned display in the Chiltern Shopping Centre and the distribution of a leaflet to households.

Transportation Items

- 4 I am holding a meeting on 27 November with the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Local Committees together with my PAG members to discuss the operation of the Local Committees and the need to increase the engagement of local members in Planning and Transportation matters. If members have any particular suggestions or comments, I would be pleased to receive them prior to the meeting.
- 5 **A418 Oxford Road Railway Bridge, Aylesbury**, works are going well and the new bridge should be opened to two-way traffic before Christmas. Whilst this will relieve the existing traffic difficulties, the work on the bridge, the bus lane and other parts of the contract will continue well into the new year. The contractor, Nuttalls, are fully aware of their obligations to keep the road free of obstructions and are responding accordingly.

- 6 All members should by now have received a pack of **Winter Maintenance Leaflets**. Over 7000 leaflets have been distributed to all Parish and District Councils, the top 100 businesses in the County, charities and other major highway users including the emergency services. Further leaflets can be obtained from the area offices or from 01296 383205. The operational document has been revised this year and distributed to relevant users. It will be revised around March 2002 where member workshops to input will be considered.
- 7 Discussions are continuing with Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe District Councils on the way forward with **Special Parking Areas (SPAs)** in these areas. Joint member seminars are proposed for these Districts before Christmas so that all members of the County and District can understand and discuss the implications for their authorities responsibilities for on and off street parking.

County Structure Plan Review

- 8 Work has been proceeding over the summer on the preparation of Strategic Development Options for the new Structure Plan. These will postulate alternative ways of accommodating the additional housing requirements imposed on Buckinghamshire by the Government's new Regional Planning Guidance for South East England.
- 9 The emerging Options have been considered at two meetings of the Structure Plan Review Joint Panel and a third meeting is planned for January next year. Subject to any changes which that meeting may wish to recommend, the Options will be considered by Cabinet in February, before County Council is asked to endorse them at the end of that month for the purposes of Public Consultation. If agreement then is secured, Public Consultation would take place, through a variety of forms, in April and May next year. On the basis of comments received at that stage, the first Draft of the new Structure Plan would be prepared and, subject to County Council approval, placed on Deposit at the end of next year.

Home Zones

- 10 The County Council has recently responded to a Government Challenge and bid for £1.5m for three Home Zones. If successful work would be undertaken to make the areas more pedestrian and local community friendly with carriageway works, improved parking arrangements and 20mph speed limits. The areas that

have been selected are Castlefield, High Wycombe, Pond Park, Chesham and Havelock Street, Aylesbury. It is hoped that Government approval will also be given to an inner 10mph zone in Castlefield and Havelock Street.

- 11 At this stage in the bidding, only limited consultation with other authorities has been possible but there are well established local forums involving residents and other agencies, particularly in Castlefield and Pond Park, who are supportive of the bid.

RODNEY ROYSTON
CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION