

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & TRANSPORT COMMITTEE - 2 JULY 2018

QUESTION NO. 3 in accordance with Standing Order No.36

Zahid Aziz to ask the Chair of Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport Committee:

#### Traffic Management Plan

I am seeing more and more construction and new housing being built in all directions of the town and I would like to know what the Traffic Management plan is for the current congestion and how the Council is anticipating dealing with the growing population it is attracting into the town.

**REPLY by the Chair of the Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport Committee (Councillor Debs Absolom):**

I invite Councillor Page, the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport to make the response on my behalf.

**REPLY by the Lead Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport (Councillor Page):**

I thank Mr Aziz for his question.

I welcome the recognition that our transport strategy needs to consider the significant levels of current and planned growth for the area. This growth will occur not only within Reading Borough but also significant levels of predominantly new housing growth is planned in neighbouring authorities including Wokingham and West Berkshire. It is important to realise that this growth in population in the wider area will have significant implications for residents of Reading Borough if it is not planned and managed sustainably.

As mentioned in my response to previous questions, we are intending to review and update our current Local Transport Plan to take account of the latest growth assumptions within the emerging Local Plans. This will involve working closely with our neighbouring authorities to ensure a joined-up, comprehensive strategy is developed to consider transport requirements over the wider area. The strategy will need to include the provision of greater capacity on sustainable modes to cater for future travel demand by encouraging the use of public transport, walking and cycling; alongside measures to help manage travel demand.

We are already working with our neighbouring authorities on the development and delivery of a programme of major strategic transport schemes for the area. We will therefore continue to work collaboratively to develop a joined-up strategy through both the new Local Transport Plan and associated Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for the area.