

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **TUESDAY, 22 JANUARY 2013**

REPORT BY: **DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT**

SUBJECT: **COUNCIL POLICY FOR INSTALLING NEW
VEHICULAR CROSSINGS ON THE ADOPTED
HIGHWAYS**

1.00 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To seek Cabinet approval of the new Council Policy for the installation of new vehicular crossings on Adopted Highways.

2.00 **BACKGROUND**

2.01 Flintshire County Council as Highways Authority has a statutory responsibility, defined in the Highways Act 1980 to maintain the Adopted Highway Network.

2.02 Section 184 of the Highways Act deals with the provision of vehicle crossings over footways and verges on Adopted Highways. It states that where a crossing is necessary, the Highway Authority will carry out the works and recover the cost thereof from the property occupiers. The provisions of this Section also allow the Highways Authority to permit the property occupiers to undertake the works at their own expense (or to let the works to a contractor) subject to compliance with the Authority's standards.

2.03 On the 22nd June 1999 the Highways, Transportation and Engineering Committee approved the following 'That, other than where the Director of Highways, Transportation and Engineering deems it appropriate to permit third parties to undertake footway crossing works. Such works will be carried out only by the Council on receipt of advance payment.'

2.04 There have been a number of recent questions about the current arrangement, resulting from Council approved contractors offering to carry out vehicular crossing work at costs below that provided by the Council.

2.05 As the Streetscene service continues to concentrate on core maintenance work, rather than competing for additional work through commercial tenders, the arrangement should now be reviewed. The proposed new arrangement will allow residents to obtain competitive quotations for the work, without the Council losing control of any

structural changes made to the highway network.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 The existing arrangement places additional workloads on Streetscene operational staff, diverting them away from key maintenance work. Because of the piecemeal nature of the work and its relatively low value, the actual costs of carrying out the work are often higher than the quoted amount.
- 3.02 When residents are provided with the Council's quotation, questions are often raised regarding the apparent high cost of the work. Many applicants consider the estimate provided for the work to be higher than those provided by private contractors.
- 3.03 Who ever carries out the work, the Council needs to be confident that the work is carried out to the required standard by a suitable and experienced contractor with the necessary public liability insurance to deal with any incidents which may occur whilst completing the work.
- 3.04 In order to overcome the concerns of residents it is recommended that the following Policy set out in Appendix 1 is adopted for vehicular crossings.

If adopted, the new arrangement will ensure: -

- Applicants are able to procure the work from the best value source.
 - The Council is still available to carry out the work if required to do so by the applicant
 - The Council can ensure the work is carried out by approved contractors
 - The Council is able to inspect the work to ensure it is completed to the required standard
- 3.05 A fee of £100.00 will be required for all applications. The charge is intended to cover administration costs for the application and the visits to the site by Streetscene staff to initially approve the application and during the construction of the crossing to ensure the works are carried out to the required standard.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 That Cabinet approves the Council's Policy for the installation of new vehicular crossings on Adopted Highways.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 The new policy is intended to provide local qualified and experienced contractors with the opportunity to tender for this work. The additional income from the application fee will be sufficient only to cover the costs of the administration and the two site visits needed to grant initial approval and to inspect the actual construction work.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 The proposal will ensure that all applicants receive competitive quotations for the work they require.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Not applicable.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

Not applicable.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 The work does not provide full time work for any Streetscene staff member and the time spent on this work will be reallocated to other essential core maintenance services.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

None.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

With Cabinet Member.

12.00 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Policy for Vehicular Crossings on the Adopted Highway.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Contact Officer: S Jones
Telephone: 01352 704700
Email: Stephen.o.jones@flintshirte.gov.uk