

Appendix 2

DRAFT PROTOCOL FOR MAJOR ROAD WORKS

1. Introduction

The City Council has recently received an increasing number of complaints from businesses, residents, Councillors and the press about the disruption major roadworks can cause on main roads and in the City centre. These major roadworks are normally either City Council Maintenance and Improvement Works or Statutory Undertakers Works.

a) City Council Maintenance Works

The City Council has a duty to maintain the highways in a safe condition and the decision to undertake essential maintenance on roads and/or bridges on main roads is only undertaken after extensive surveys. There will always be some disruption, but this is reduced if work is planned rather than unplanned. There is no consultation with road users or businesses on the need for the works as they will be essential to keep the highway safe. There is, however, consultation with residents, road users, emergency services, bus companies etc., on how the maintenance works are carried out, diversion routes etc in order to minimise disruption. All works are coordinated at the quarterly New Roads and Street Works Act (NRSWA) Coordination meeting attended by the City Council and the Statutory Undertakers.

b) City Council Improvement Works

Over the next five years the City Council will be completing an extensive programme of works to improve the public transport network, cycle and pedestrian routes, complete safer routes to school and speed reduction measures within the City. These works will, in some cases, increase disruption in the short term but will improve it in the long term and achieve the objectives of the Local Transport Plan. Extensive consultation with all involved partners is carried out, not only concerning the need for the works but also how the works are carried out. All works are also coordinated at the quarterly NRWSA Coordination meeting.

c) Statutory Undertakers Works

Statutory Undertakers are entitled to carry out works on major roads under the NRSWA. They obviously do not carry out consultation on the need for the work, however their major works are co-ordinated with other Statutory Undertakers and the City Council at the quarterly NRSWA Co-ordination meeting organised by the City Council.

The issue of Disruption of Traffic is already being considered as part of the Best Value Review of Transport currently being undertaken by the City Council. This consultation is part of that review and it is proposed that the following draft Consultation Protocol is adopted by the Council so as to ensure that the effects of disruption caused by major road and bridge works in the City will be reduced in the future.

2. Draft Consultation Protocol

The City Council will:

- Involve the press more closely with regular briefings and information on major roadworks.
- Improve the quality of the radio information on major roadworks including advertising major roadworks in advance.
- Issue a weekly bulletin in the Leicester Mercury detailing the major roadworks (proposed and current).
- Explain better to affected parties the benefits and the reasoning behind the major roadworks.
- Improve signage at roadworks so that it is more useful and informative.
- Be more proactive in informing local residents and businesses affected by the roadworks in advance and in ensuring that all correspondence is clear, consistent and informative.
- Ensure that the moratorium of City Council roadworks and Statutory Undertakers works on major roads and in the City Centre during December and early January is continued (except emergency works).
- Ensure that the quarterly Coordination meeting between the City Council, the Statutory Undertakers and other interested parties takes place.
- Ensure that every opportunity is taken to explain the need for major roadworks eg by inclusion in the monthly City Council Link magazine.
- Prepare guidelines for all staff managing major works in the City.