

# AREA COMMITTEE HIGHWAY WARD SPOKESPERSONS PROTOCOL

## **Background**

Following the Best Value Review into Traffic and Safety, Car parking and Public Rights of way undertaken in 2001, it was agreed to allow some Area Committee decisions to be delegated to officers in consultation Councillor(s) nominated by the relevant Area Committee (known as the "Ward spokesperson"), reducing the length of time previously taken to reach a decision and take action. This enables decisions to be taken via a conversation between officers and the relevant Ward Spokesperson on whether a scheme should be investigated, rather than presenting a report to the next available Area Committee meeting. The Audit Commission supported this approach in May 2002.

On 14 January 2002, the Executive agreed to delegate to the Corporate Director in consultation with Councillor(s) nominated by the relevant Area Committee, the following matters:

- (i) investigation of traffic regulation orders
- (ii) investigation and undertaking surveys in respect of pedestrian crossings
- (iii) agreement to investigate/provide box junctions
- (iv) agreement to investigate/provide pedestrian refuges
- (v) agreement to investigate/provide traffic calming schemes
- (vi) the establishment/disestablishment of school crossing patrol points subject to supporting information and data being provided to ward councillors before any action is taken

At the first meeting of Area Committees at the start of the Municipal Year, "Ward Spokespersons" are nominated for the ensuing year. Officers will contact the "Ward Spokesperson" often by e-mail: seeking guidance on whether a particular complaint/enquiry should be investigated prior to a report being submitted to the Area Committee.

Some Area Committees have appointed a "Ward Spokesperson for the whole Area Committee, others for individual wards. Where the ward is represented by more than one particular political group, "Joint Ward Spokespersons" have been appointed.

## **Delegated Budgets**

Each Area Committee receives a delegated budget to fund traffic, highway and local initiatives.

At each Area Committee meeting a position statement is submitted as part of the 'Progress Report' providing as up-to-date as possible details of commitments and expenditure in relation to the delegated budget. This enables the Area Committee to monitor the expenditure and identify early when resources are running low to avoid schemes being agreed for which there is insufficient budget.

Some Area Committees have also delegated to the Corporate Director in consultation with a Ward spokesperson certain minor, non-regulatory, matters including authority to spend up to £300 from the Area Committees delegated Budgets. This was based on the cost to provide an automatic traffic counter from the Greater Manchester Transportation Unit (GMTU).

The following matters are delegated to the Corporate Director but are funded from the Area Committees Highways and Local Initiatives Delegated Budget:

- Traffic counter £300
- Driveway protect markings £27
- White road markings £1.50/m
- Pedestrian dropped crossing – with tactile flags and dropped kerbs – a pair – and no drainage problems – approx £1000
- Bollards £171
- Signs – can vary widely depending on simple pole / plate £75 to pole, lit, reflective - £800 – plus UU supply
- Guardrails – £90/m