

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

26 JUNE 2007

### ITEM NO. 9 - INNER DISTRIBUTION ROAD

Council resolves to adopt as its present policy the statement on the one-way Inner Distribution Road made by Cabinet on 4 June 2007 in the following terms:

'Over the past three years and more, the Cabinet has considered a number of reports on traffic problems in central Reading, with particular reference to the working of the IDR. The Cabinet came to two conclusions: firstly, that to do nothing about the projected levels of congestion in central Reading was not an option; and, secondly, that of all the potential schemes laid before us to improve traffic movement in central Reading converting the IDR to a one-way system appeared the best.

It has been clear recently that, while congestion is regarded as a problem in Reading, many people do not appreciate either the full extent of present congestion in the town centre, nor the implications for further increases in traffic expected over the next decade as a result of the further growth of Reading.

The Cabinet therefore believes that we need firstly to debate and agree the challenge that faces the town in managing present and future traffic, and secondly to find a solution to that challenge that finds widespread support.

We intend to set-up a wide-ranging public commission, with an independent chair, which will look at both the current and projected traffic problems in central Reading and at any proposals for the further development of the Traffic and Access strategy for Reading, which would include environmental benefits. We would also employ a range of methods to allow residents and other interested parties to feed into the commission, including, for example, a local Citizens' jury, independent surveys of public opinion, the Council's own scrutiny process and also invite proposals from local residents and organisations, including any from the opposition parties. It would be up to the independent chair how the commission was organised and how long would be needed to conclude its work.

In the meantime we will suspend all proposed physical works on the IDR whilst this reconsideration is underway.

It is the Cabinet's intention that, once the commission has reached its conclusions, the Council's future policy will be bound by its findings, including any advice on whether it is necessary to hold a public inquiry prior to taking any proposed traffic management scheme forward, and we hope that the other political parties will also sign up to this approach.'

subject, however, to recognising that it is this Council which must remain responsible for the ultimate decisions on any such measures, including satisfying itself that any scheme is acceptable to the people of Reading."