



Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council

Council verdict on bypass proposal

REDCAR & Cleveland Borough Council is to formally end years of speculation over the possibility of an East Middlesbrough bypass by deleting the proposal from its future plans.

The Council's Cabinet Chairman Councillor Eric Empson, will preside over the debate at the Cabinet meeting tonight (Tuesday, November 1).

The decision is based on the latest evidence in a consultants' report, commissioned by the Council, jointly with Middlesbrough Council, to study a new road scheme between the A171 Swans Corner roundabout and the A174 Parkway.

The study highlights 'fundamental' objections from key stakeholders, the National Trust, the Highways Agency and Network Rail. The study also indicates that the new road would have little if any benefits to traffic congestion north of the Parkway.

The scheme would involve the acquisition of a large section of National Trust Land within Ormesby Hall Grounds. The National Trust has said that it would not release any of its land at Ormesby Hall. The Highways Agency has 'serious concerns' about any form of junction with the Parkway and Network Rail is opposed to the closure of the Esk Valley Railway to allow a new bridge construction.

The report also warns that the scheme does not fit funding criteria from Government Office North East, who believe the proposed new road would bring 'no policy benefits.'

The Cabinet is being recommended to "rescind all proposals for the construction of a transport route in the East Middlesbrough Transport Corridor" and to omit the East Middlesbrough Transport Corridor from the list of safeguarded routes in the emerging Redcar & Cleveland Local Development Framework.

However in recognition that alternatives need to be explored, the Cabinet is set to agree to further feasibility work to be carried out at Swan's Corner roundabout and to explore a possible Park and Ride scheme in the vicinity of Nunthorpe.

Councillor Empson, who is also Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Development & Infrastructure, said: "A constructive meeting has taken place with our neighbours Middlesbrough Council seeking a way forward.

"We each recognise, and understand, the traffic problems faced by both authorities and have agreed that the two councils will continue to work together to resolve the transport challenges faced within and between our respective areas, with a particular focus on public transport improvements and traffic management schemes."

Middlesbrough Council released the following press release on 01/11/2005: 'Council to consider bypass options'

Middlesbrough Council is to consider its options following the decision of Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council to delete its section of the proposed east Middlesbrough Bypass from its future plans.

Mayor Ray Mallon said: "We have had high level talks with representatives from Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council who have explained their reasoning in detail. I fully understand where they are coming from and why they have reached this decision. However, I have also explained to them that Middlesbrough is in a different position and I intend to review all of the options for moving forward.

"Part of the solution will definitely involve working closely with Redcar & Cleveland to identify a whole series of initiatives to help tackle the traffic problems which we all know exist.

"One thing I will personally continue doing, is talking to people who live in the parts of Middlesbrough which are worst affected. I am establishing a consultation forum including local residents and community council representatives to express views on the existing options and bring forward new ideas.

"I am convinced that working in partnership will give us the best chance of cracking the problem."

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