

County Council Meeting – 16 May 2024**Question to Councillor Deaville
Cabinet Member for Strategic Highways****By Councillor Pardesi**

Question

What has SCC learnt from the feedback of residents, businesses and road users on the simultaneous ongoing roadworks in and around Stafford town centre?

Reply

Good, connected highways are a key priority for this council and that's why we are investing an extra £50m over the next three on improving our roads.

We have also successfully secured additional central government funding to improve walking and cycling facilities around the town, for example on Chell Road, as well as maintenance works on key parts of the Main Road Network, including the A34 between Queensville and Weeping Cross.

Successful economic growth and inward investment creates further roadworks in the form of road improvements, creating new accesses and the need for new utility connections and upgrades.

The delivery of such significant investment into the town, inevitably brings some level of disruption.

If done in isolation, the works and disruption to local residents and businesses would need to be prolonged over several years – something we all want to avoid. Therefore, where possible opportunities are being taken to join-up the delivery of different elements like walking and cycling improvements, traffic signal upgrades and road maintenance. Whilst this can appear to extend work durations in the short-term, it is only being done where overall the impact is less disruptive.

Every effort is also made to plan and co-ordinate activities in order to avoid additional short-duration work on approved and signed diversion routes. However, there are occasions such as utility leaks where work needs to take place on safety grounds and cannot wait until the route is clear again.

In these instances, conditions are applied to these works to reduce the impact such as working outside of peak times only and manually controlling the temporary traffic signals to keep traffic flowing as much as possible.

Early notification and publicity of works is essential to help businesses and the public plan their journeys. This includes project specific communication plan, including media releases, on street notices and additional online information.

Members of the public can also sign-up to the national One.Network website, to receive up to date publications of all planned roadworks in any chosen area.

Finally, we are, of course, always grateful to receive local feedback and will endeavour, wherever possible, to make further changes that can help to complete works as quickly and efficiently as possible.

