

Westminster Briefing

“Implementing the Traffic Management Act: Reducing Congestion Locally Through Better Network Management”

The House Magazine presents a series of *Westminster Briefings* aimed at providing a forum for practitioners, local policymakers and civil servants to debate key issues with leading figures from within Westminster, Whitehall and Local Government

Title: **Implementing the Traffic Management Act:
Reducing Congestion Locally Through Better Network Management**
Date: **Tuesday 11th March 2008**
Time: **10.30am – 2.00pm**
Venue: **Commonwealth Club, Westminster**

“There’s nothing more annoying than a road being dug up time after time in the same place, or seeing work taking place at the most inconvenient time for road users. Of course, companies like gas and water suppliers need to carry out repairs and improvements but it should be possible to co-ordinate their work better, and do it when the road isn’t so busy. These regulations enable local authorities to minimise the level of disruption to the public – for example, councils will be able to co-ordinate work done by two separate companies and prevent work being carried out during the busy rush hour. We want councils and utility companies to work together to reduce disruption. These regulations will help authorities plan ahead, ensure the works don’t take longer than necessary and give new powers to allow them to issue fines where necessary.”

Rt Hon Rosie Winterton MP, Minister of State for Transport, July 2007

“The Government is committed to tackling congestion and making journeys more reliable. Making better use of the capacity we have is at the heart of the Government’s transport strategy. These new powers signal a new focus on how we manage our roads, and I expect the public to see improvements both on local roads and motorways as they are rolled out. The new Act will also give every local authority in the country a specific duty to keep traffic moving, with reserve powers for the Government to take action in the event of failure.”

David Jamieson MP, (former) Minister of State for Transport, July 2004

The Traffic Management Act, which gained Royal Assent in July 2004, was drafted with the stated aim of “tackling congestion and reducing disruption” by giving new, far reaching, powers to local authorities and the Highways Agency. As well as giving local authorities more control over the co-ordination and management of street-works and more civil enforcement powers over driving and parking offences, the Act places a duty on local authorities to aim to have free flowing traffic on their road network.

This *Westminster Briefing* will provide delegates with a timely opportunity to discuss and debate the practical implications of the legislation as well as consider their obligations under the Act. Delegates will also consider how effective these measures have been at achieving the stated aims of the legislation and consider the implications and practicalities of the provisions and regulations which will become enforceable in 2008. Participants will also have the opportunity to consider what more can be done, and what help they need, in tackling congestion and keeping traffic moving on road networks locally.

Delegates will be drawn from all sectors of the transport industry, local authorities (officers and members), traffic planning/management consultants, utility companies, central government departments & bodies, trade associations/unions, police authorities and consultancies.

All *Westminster Briefings* take place within close proximity of the Palace of Westminster; a light breakfast will be served upon arrival with a networking lunch to follow proceedings. Places on our briefings are strictly limited; I advise you, therefore, to book as early as possible to secure your delegate place(s).