

31 January 2019

Agenda Item:4

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE

HIGHWAYS INNOVATION

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Members approval for the programme of innovations proposed by the County Council and its contractor Via EM Ltd.
2. To seek Members endorsement of the current approach to highways related professional and sector networking.
3. To seek Members endorsement for officers to pursue notable funding opportunities for the use of new technology and innovation,

Information

4. This meeting will build upon the information previously presented to the Communities and Place Review and Development Committee.
5. Although the information presented to Members will place an emphasis upon developments carried out by Via EM Ltd, it should be noted that highways had a strong history of innovation whilst the service was still being delivered in-house for example:
 - The introduction of the CONFIRM highway asset management system.
 - The deployment of interactive traffic management signs.
 - The use of innovative surfacing materials and plastic kerbs.
 - The development of a form of Term Maintenance Contract which was adopted by the Highway Maintenance Efficiency Programme (HMEP) and rolled out nationally for use by other highway authorities.

Liaison with Other Organisations.

6. Both the County Council and Via EM Ltd. participate in a number of regional and national organisations to ensure that Nottinghamshire has full sight of highways innovations, these bodies include:
 - The Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport
 - The Midlands Service Improvement Group
 - Midlands Highway Alliance

- Highways UK
- The Association for Public Service Excellence
- The Highway Term Maintenance Association
- Business in the Community
- Road Safety GB

In addition to the organisations listed above Via EM Ltd. also liaises closely with its strategic surfacing partner Tarmac Ltd. who are internationally renowned for their many innovative products.

7. The County Council in partnership with Via EM and 13 other partners recently submitted a bid to The Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport seeking to build on the roll out of EV charging points, LED lighting, infrastructure improvement programmes & trials of patching techniques in Nottinghamshire. The bid sought to install a long range wireless access network in the town of Mansfield to create a smart street lighting network, and help deliver pot hole detection, improved traffic monitoring, on street & car park management, flood risk detection, road temperature monitoring and smart flashing amber warning signals.

Innovations to be Presented at this Meeting

8. The topics which will be presented to Members at this meeting will be:

- Targeted gully cleaning
- Electronic Works Management systems
- Self-provision of temporary traffic management

These innovations have been selected because they demonstrate initiatives in three stages of development i.e. initial assessment of viability, project development and adoption.

9. Where possible Via EM Ltd. will attempt to illustrate these topics with videos or demonstrations.

Innovations to be presented at future meetings.

10. It is proposed that the following topics will be presented at the March 2019 meeting:

- Artemis, claims recovery service
- Recycling of highway waste and arisings
- Salix bid for replacing street light lanterns with LEDs units
- Innovative patching techniques

11. The topics presented to the next meeting are subject to Members approval and if Members wish to discuss alternative topics the meeting agenda will be amended accordingly

Other Options Considered

12. Failure to innovate will result in the County Council being unable to make use of new materials, new ways of working and new technologies, this will prevent improvements being made to the delivery of highway services and these service's value for money.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

13. The proposed programme of highways innovations will improve the value for money and quality of highway services delivered to the people of Nottinghamshire.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

15. Financial implications will be considered when any new areas of funding are developed.

Implications for Service Users

16. Successful innovation will allow the County Council to make use of new materials, new ways of working and new technologies, this will allow improvements to be made to the delivery and the value for money of highway services.
17. Successful innovation will enhance the County Council's reputation amongst the residents of Nottinghamshire.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) It is recommend that Members consider the topics presented and approve the future programme of innovations proposed by the County Council and Via EM Ltd.
- 2) It is recommended that Members approve the current approach to highways related professional and sector networking.
- 3) It is recommended that Members approve officers' pursuit of notable funding opportunities for the use of new technology and innovation,

Adrian Smith
Corporate Director, Place

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Gary Wood, Group Manager Highways and Transport, Tel: 0115 9774270 / Martin Carnaffin, Contract Manager, Tel: 0115 9774229

Constitutional Comments [SJE-24/12/2018]

18. This decision falls within the Terms of Reference of the Communities & Place Review & Development Committee to whom responsibility for the review and development of all functions falling under the remit of the Authority's Communities & Place Committee has been delegated.

Financial Comments [RWK 20/12/2018]

19. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 15 of the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All