

**14 June 2012****Agenda Item:****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR HIGHWAYS****HIGHWAYS UPDATE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide the Transport and Highways Committee an over-view and update of the recent work in Highways.

**Information**

2. The Highways delivers the maintenance, improvement and management of the County Council's 4,200 km highway network. This includes preparation, review and delivery of the Local Transport Plan which sets out the strategic objectives for the highway service, including an Asset Management Plan. The division plans, designs and constructs highway maintenance and improvement works using a mix of in-house staff and consultants and contractors to deliver its capital and revenue funded programmes. This includes carriageways, footways, cycle-ways, Public Rights of Way, highway drainage systems, street lighting, highway grass cutting and so forth. The division also provides comments on District Council Local Development Framework and highways comments on planning applications to District Councils. All carriageways and footways are regularly inspected by highway management teams who also lead on resolving customer enquiries supported by the Customer Services Centre. The highway safety group develop and implement highway safety improvements through engineering, enforcement and education programmes including the provision of school crossing patrols. The in-house delivery of highway operations such as winter gritting and snow clearing, pot hole and patch repairs, and delivery of highway improvement schemes is managed through a trading account as is the fleet maintenance operation.
3. On 1<sup>st</sup> April some 120 staff transferred to the highways division from Ashfield, Broxtowe and Mansfield District Councils as the Manage and Operate Partnerships (MOP) arrangements were terminated with the highway service now completely provided by the County Council. Continuity of service delivery was successfully achieved on 1<sup>st</sup> April and work is underway to develop a County standard and consistency of service provision. Immediate savings of almost £0.5M are realised immediately through transferring service delivery back to the County and a further £0.5M are expected to be achieved through

economies of scale through a County wide operation.

4. A reduction in the number of depots required to deliver the in-house operations has been achieved with the opening of the new purpose built facility at Bilsthorpe.
5. The Traded Services Review will establish a new relationship with the private sector, and encourage local spending. A ten-year contract is currently being tendered for award by Christmas 2012, worth up to £150 million and includes resurfacing, road markings, surface dressing and patching, gully emptying, street light column replacement, fencing and land reclamation. This will rationalise highway procurement arrangements, out-source some highway services and compliment the retention of a responsive in-house highways team to deliver services such as winter maintenance.
6. We have been working closely with local communities, for example through the Snow Warden scheme and the Junior Road Safety officers. The Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) continues to deliver cost effective environmental improvements which make a big difference to residents.
7. It has been made easier for the public to access services with the introduction of on-line fault reporting and with procedures simplified and costs reduced for pavement cafe licences, seasonal decoration licences, sponsored planting in the highway, and dropped kerb installations.
8. Following very effective campaigns locally and at a national level the A453 trunk road widening scheme has been given the go-ahead, and funding provisionally approved for the County Council to develop the Hucknall Town Centre Improvement Scheme through planning and statutory procedures ready to build.
9. Construction work on the new Mansfield bus station is running ahead of schedule to deliver a modern public transport facility to support the town with the structural steel work for the building expected to rise above the hoardings and the new pedestrian footbridge being lifted into position over the next few weeks. The County Council will also be working with bus operators to develop a Quality Bus Partnership to drive further improvements into bus services operating through the town when the new bus station is opened.
10. New methods of communicating with our customers are being developed for example the use of on-line social media to run campaigns on Drink Driving, Cycling Safety, and the "Fatal 4" reaching sections of the community not reached by traditional press releases.
11. The 2011/12 £40M+ capital and £20M+ revenue budgets were both delivered within 2.5% of target and a small sample of the variety of projects includes the A614 safety camera scheme, the A60 Forest Lane junction improvement, the programmes of new pedestrian crossings, environmental weight limits and parking schemes, and the Ashfield and Mansfield Multi-user Trail.

### **Other Options Considered**

10. Report is for information only.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

11. Report is for information only.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That this report is noted

**Andrew Warrington**  
**Service Director Highways**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact: Andrew Warrington**

### **Constitutional Comments**

13. Report is for information only.

### **Financial Comments**

14. Report is for information only.

### **Background Papers**

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.

Local Transport Plan (NCC web site)

Report to Cabinet 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012 Highways Capital Programme (NCC web site)

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All