



8th January 2015

Agenda Item: 9

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, HIGHWAYS

2014 REVISION OF THE HIGHWAY NETWORK MANAGEMENT PLAN (HNMP) AND THE HIGHWAY INSPECTION MANUAL (HIM)

Purpose of the Report

1. This report provides information to the Committee regarding the 2014 updates to the Highway Network Management Plan (HNMP) and Highway Inspection Manual (HIM).

Information and Advice

2. The Highways Division of the County Council provides services to the County's residents, visitors, businesses and road users, the nature of these services is outlined in the HNMP.
3. The HNMP outlines current Highway Policies and Service level commitments to interested parties and officers alike in accordance with statutory acts. It is available to the Public on the NCC website.
4. The HIM is a procedural guide for the inspection of Nottinghamshire's highway network. It covers highway safety and service inspections and details the aims, purpose, frequency, method, and defect categorisation associated with these inspections

HNMP 2014 Amendments

5. The entire document has been reviewed and updated where necessary to negate the need to constantly update post titles following future organisational changes. References to relevant legislation have been updated in line with current national legislation where appropriate. References to the Nottinghamshire Highways Partnership (NHP) have also been removed. The majority of the document was still current with respect to policy and service level commitments. A full copy of the document is viewable via the following link: <http://intranet.nottscc.gov.uk/departments/communities/coms-yourdivision/coms-highways/> and is viewable from the Service publications list (2014 Draft).

Details where changes were necessary are detailed below:

- *Vehicle Accesses* – The option to use a contractor of the promoter's choice has now been covered, and the option to carry out only a partial construction has been removed.
 - *Sponsorship of Traffic Islands* – The latest arrangement to sponsor an island through a third party has been added.
 - *Trees and Hedge Maintenance* – The policy has been revised to reflect current service levels. Inspection frequency is now once every 5 years for mature trees in assessed high risk areas, or more frequently if necessary. The policy on Highway trees obscuring solar panels and other equipment is also outlined. Trees on the highway will not be removed or unduly cut back for reasons of improving or allowing CCTV coverage, where they affect a solar panel installation, or where they affect television reception for adjacent households. Where this is the case, residents will be advised to seek other ways of improving reception.
 - *High Skid Resistance Surfacing* – Policy now more succinct and refers directly to current national design standards.
 - *Early Life Skid Resistance* – This policy has now been removed as current national guidelines indicate that is unnecessary.
 - *Tourism Signs* – Updated with the current policy, as approved by the Transport and Highways Committee in November 2012.
 - *Traffic Calming and Safety Cameras* – Both policies condensed and updated to reflect modern practice.
 - *Pavement Café Licences* – The current Highways policy has been added to the document along with the application pack as an appendix.
 - *Street Lighting Structural Testing of columns* – The document has been reviewed to ensure that where any features are to be attached to a lighting column that the need for testing is considered and charged to the promoter where necessary and appropriate. This applies to Seasonal Decorations, Hanging Baskets, CCTV, Banners and Signs.
6. The appendices which follow and support the document have also been updated where necessary.

New additions to the appendices are:

- The current seasonal decorations application and licence
- The current hanging baskets and banner application and licence
- The pavement café application and licence
- The vehicular access application and licence

HIM 2014 Amendments

7. The document has been reviewed and updated inline with the HNMP to ensure the two documents are in accord. The categorisation of highway defects and the associated response times have been brought inline with the new processes introduced as an outcome of recent service reviews. A full copy of the document is viewable via the following link:

<http://intranet.nottsc.gov.uk/departments/communities/coms-yourdivision/coms-highways/>

and is viewable from the Service publications list.

8. Recognising that the service is experiencing ongoing budgetary constraints and service pressures, highways have implemented potential new ways to unlock efficiencies, the outcome specification for improvement written into the gulley cleaning contract being just one example. It is recognised that pressure on the service will increase further and therefore, it is proposed that the target response times to defects will be reviewed annually by this committee to consider the impact of these constraints, the practicality of delivery and the volume of work being identified.

Other Options Considered

9. None – this is an information report.

Reasons for Recommendations

10. None – this is an information report.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working 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

12. None, the document has been updated to reflect the current financial position.

Implications for Service Users

13. The updated document will provide for a better understanding of service level commitments from the Highways service.

Recommendation

14. That Committee approve the revised document for publication.

Andrew Warrington
Service Director Highways

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
Andrew Warrington Service Director, Highways

Constitutional Comments

None – report for information.

Background Papers

None

Electoral Divisions

All