

**13 October 2021****Agenda Item:4****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE****HIGHWAYS REVIEW UPDATE REPORT****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to:
  - Update Councillors on the County Council's highway services review which is underway following on from the motion agreed at Full Council on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021;
  - Provide a verbal update on the Local Government Association Peer Review ;
  - Set out the reporting timeline for the outputs from the review.

**Information**

2. At the Transport and Environment Committee of 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021, Councillors agreed to the commencement of a cross-party highway review. The first meeting of the review panel took place on 14<sup>th</sup> July, with the second meeting involving practical demonstrations taking place at Bilsthorpe Depot on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021.
3. A website updating on the progress of the Highways Review work has been set up and is being updated regularly. The website address is:  
  
<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/cross-party-highways-review-panel>
4. As part of the review, it was agreed to seek support from external consultants to provide national and international knowledge and expertise. WSP have been appointed to support the work of the panel. WSP have many years experience of working in the highways sector and currently have clients in over 20 highway authorities providing guidance and support on highways reviews and highway asset management and maintenance practice. Matthew Lugg, the lead consultant has been gathering evidence from Councilors and officers to inform his work.
5. The third and fourth meetings of the panel took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept and 5<sup>th</sup> October, with the focus on possible improvements to approaches to road and footway maintenance, as well as drainage.
6. As part of the overarching review, the Local Government Association (LGA) undertook a targeted highways peer review to consider the progress made and emerging outputs from the highways review work. The LGA peer review took place during the week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> September. As part of the process a number of Councillors, officers and stakeholders were interviewed. A verbal update on the LGA review will be given at Committee.

## **Further Review Panel Meetings and Next Steps**

7. A further panel meeting is planned for 20<sup>th</sup> October. This will cover highways environmental maintenance, including verge and tree maintenance, as well as our approach to managing and coordinating utility works. It is intended that the key outputs and recommendations from the LGA Peer Review, WSP's work and the Member panel be presented to Committee in November.

## **Other Options Considered**

8. Other aspects of the highway service were considered for inclusion, beyond those included in the terms of reference however these are not included in this review.

## **Reason for Recommendations**

9. The review provides an opportunity to renew and develop the service to match the ambitions of the County Council and expectations of residents to ensure the right services are being delivered in the most cost effective way.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

10. 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**

11. As previously reported, the cost of the review will be accommodated within the existing highway budget and is estimated to be £20-£40k . Any financial implications arising from the review will be considered as part of the review outcomes to be reported to Committee.

## **Public Sector Equality Duty implications**

12. Any public sector equality duty implications arising from the review will be considered as part of the review outcomes and report to Committee.

## **Implications for Sustainability and the Environment**

13. Effective highway maintenance approaches can reduce congestion, its knock-on effects on air quality and its impacts on local communities. The recycling of materials and aggregates is also considered when delivering highways schemes. Any specific implications for sustainability and the environment will be considered as part of the review outcomes and report to Committee

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. It is recommended that Committee considers and ratifies the update provided in the report.

**Adrian Smith**  
**Corporate Director, Place**

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

Derek Higon – Service Director Place and Communities - 0115 9773498

Gary Wood – Head of Highways and Transport – 0115 9774270

**Constitutional Comments (SJE – 14/09/2021)**

14. This decision falls within the Terms of Reference of the Transport & Environment Committee to whom responsibility for the exercise of the Authority’s functions relating to the planning, management and maintenance of highways and pavements has been delegated.

**Financial Comments (SES 14/09/2021)**

15. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this 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.

- Report to Transport and Environment Committee 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – Highways Review

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

- All