

20<sup>th</sup> October 2016

**Agenda Item: 14**

## **REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (PLACE) PERFORMANCE REPORT – HIGHWAYS**

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides information to the Committee on the performance of the Highways Service provided by Via EM and the County Council – updated to the end of Quarter 1, 2016/17.

### **Information and Advice**

2. The Highways Service is delivered primarily through a joint venture company Via EM to the County Council for the benefit of the County's residents, visitors, businesses and highway users. Whilst Via was not established as a legal entity until 1 July 2016 an operational structure was in place from 1 April 2016.
3. There are a range of performance measures which support performance management for the company and the County Council and these cover the large range of services provided, including road maintenance, casualty reduction, congestion and traffic management, street lighting and development control.
4. The attached appendices focus on the following key service areas and should be read in combination with this report:
  - Highway Repairs & Enquiry Indicators (Appendix 1A)
  - Highway Complaints (Appendix 1B)
  - Road Safety Indicators (Appendices 2A & 2B)
  - Highway Claims Data (Appendix 3)
  - Highway Development Control Indicators (Appendix 4)

### **Performance Analysis**

5. The following analysis highlights key performance indicators.

**Highway Repairs & Enquiry Indicators, Highway Complaints  
(Appendices 1A & 1B)**

- a. *Street Lighting* – The time taken to repair a street light continues to reflect good performance. At Q1 the figure for the average Street Lighting repair rate was 6.74 days compared against a target of 7 days.
- b. *Potholes and Repairs* – For Q1 there were 5243 defects repaired compared to 4507 in the same quarter in 2015/16. The repair time for all categories of repair is well within the target time scale.
- c. *Highways Recorded Complaints* – A detailed breakdown of complaints is contained in Appendix 1B and compares the number of complaints (63) to the number of service enquiries (13,648). A large proportion of complaints are not upheld as they relate to dissatisfaction in policy or factors out of the service's control. When compared to the same period last year the complaints are significantly lower as the figure previously was 134. It should be noted that service enquiries have increased from 12,711 to 13,648.

### **Road Safety Indicators (Appendix 2)**

- d. Part A of this Appendix illustrates the annual change over the 10 year review period, whilst Part B details the in year quarterly change compared with the previous 4 quarters.

*Highway Safety* - Within quarter on quarter variation, the overall trend in the numbers of people and children killed or seriously injured in road accidents is still on target and long term the Council is well on course to achieve the 2020 target.

The 2020 target is to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents by 40% of the 2005-09 average (baseline). Overall the figures for 2015/16 indicate an in year 38% reduction has been achieved i.e. a reduction from 517 to 320 against the baseline figure.

The 2020 target is to reduce the number of children killed or seriously injured in road accidents by 40% from the 2005-09 average (baseline). Overall the figures for 2015/16 indicate a 40% reduction has been achieved, i.e. a reduction from 54 to 32 against the baseline figure.

### **Highway Claims Data (Appendix 3)**

- e. *Highway Claims Data* – This data illustrates the variation in the number of claims over the last 5 years and the associated repudiation rates. As a claim can be received up to 3 years after the date of the accident, the data will change as further claims may occur relating to previous years. Please note as more claims are settled the repudiation rates per year will change, however, the percentage rate is a good measure of the overall defence process. The data for 2016/17 has no discernible trends at this early stage.

### **Highway Development Control Indicators (Appendix 4)**

- f. *Highway Development Control* – These quarterly indicators monitor the processing of development control applications and pre-applications with targets set at 95% and 90% of all enquiries being dealt with within 21 days. At Q1 the figures for both indicators are 87% and 91.0% respectively.



## **Via EM Performance Management**

- g. A suite of key performance management indicators is being prepared for the management of the contract between Via EM and the County Council. Many of these indicators are existing ones that have been reported to this committee previously with the addition of specific measures for service standards. This draws on extensive work with the Midland Highway Alliance and other authorities and introduces a set of indicators that focus on the delivery of the whole service. These measures also review the collaborative health of the contractual relationship between Via EM and the County Council and include the option to introduce a set of service credits, where the achievement criteria have not been met. This system is being introduced by agreement of all parties involved including the target values.

## **Other Options Considered**

6. None – this is an information report.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

7. None – this is an information report.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

8. 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.

## **Financial Implications**

9. The monitoring of service performance will ensure that the Highways Budgets will be used efficiently and effectively.

## **Implications for Service Users**

10. The continued monitoring and management of performance will ensure that quality standards are maintained and appropriate services provided to meet local needs.

## **Recommendation**

11. That Committee note the contents of the report.

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For any enquiries about this report please contact:  
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## **Constitutional Comments**

None – report for information.

## **Background Papers**

None

## **Electoral Divisions**

All