

4 February 2021**Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE****RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO HIGHWAY ASSET MANAGEMENT****Purpose of the Report**

1. To update the Communities and Place Committee about the findings of the Communities and Place Review and Development Committee and to allow consideration of the recommendations set out in paragraphs 6 to 8.

Information

2. The recommendations set out below were ratified by the Communities and Place Review and Development Committee during its meeting on the 26th of November 2020 and have now been brought to the Communities and Place Committee for approval.
3. This report will be accompanied by a summary presentation - similar to that made to the Communities and Place Review and Development Committee meeting on the 23rd of September 2020 - which will provide Members with information about the County Council applies the the principles of Highway Asset Management.
4. The presentation will refer to the guidance document for 'Highway Infrastructure Asset Management' produced by UK Roads Liaison Group. This document sets out a series of recommendations which Local Highway Authorities should employ to demonstrate they are following sound asset management principles in all aspects of Highway Maintenance Management.
5. Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 places a duty on the County Council to maintain the highway in a reasonably safe condition so that traffic can pass along it during all seasons of the year.

Recommendations**Footway & Cycleway Maintenance**

6. The following recommendations relate to the maintenance of footways and cycleways:
 - The prioritisation and inspection strategies associated with footways and cycleways will be reviewed to ensure they adequately address the needs and vulnerabilities of pedestrians and cyclists, it is proposed that this review will be completed by June 2021.
 - When designing any future cycleway scheme officers in Via EM Ltd. will – as a *matter of course* – investigate whether an off-carriageway alternative is feasible, it is proposed that this recommendation should be enacted with immediate effect.

- The relative proportions of highways revenue and capital funding available to undertake repairs, maintenance or improvements to footways and cyclways will be reviewed to ensure they are proportionate to the amount of pedestrian and cyclist traffic which can be reasonably expected, it is proposed that this review will be completed by March 2021.

Communications with the Public

7. The following recommendations relate to communications with members of the public:

- Via EM Ltd. will continue to improve how it communicates the County Council's highways asset management practices, this will include the production of a number of short videos that will be available on-line. It is proposed that these videos will be completed by March 2021 and shall explain how highway asset management is delivered, the technology in place to achieve this and the sources of investment available to deliver highway schemes.
- Officers in Via EM Ltd. will also investigate the viability of producing a formal customer communications / customer care strategy which specifically addresses issues associated with highway asset management, it is proposed that these investigations will be completed by June 2021.

Endorsement of the County Council's Highway Asset Management Approach

8. The following recommendations relate to Member's endorsement of the County Council's highway asset management approach:

- Members endorse the application of sound highway asset management principles which seek to maximise the overall condition of Nottinghamshire's highway network rather than following a 'worst first' approach which is neither sustainable or cost effective in the long run.
- Members also endorse the adoption of proactive rather than reactive highway maintenance strategies which seek to prevent the formation of highway defects occurring in the first place, these strategies must be delivered within the bounds of the budget available.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

9. The recommendations set out above have been arrived at following due consideration of the available options by the Communities and Place Review and Development Committee.

Financial Implications

10. The recommendations contained in this report will be accommodated from within existing budgets.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. 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.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) It is recommended that the proposals contained in paragraphs 6 to 8 above - being the findings and recommendations of the Communities and Place Review and Development Committee - are endorsed by the Communities and Place Committee.

Adrian Smith
Corporate Director, Place

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Martin Carnaffin – Contract Manager Tel: 0115 9774229

Constitutional Comments (SG 08/01/2021)

12. This decision falls within the Terms of Reference of the Communities & Place Committee to whom responsibility for the exercise of the Authority's functions relating to the Highways Asset Management.

Financial Comments (SES 12/01/2021)

13. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 10. The recommendations contained in this report will be accommodated from within existing budgets.

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.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All