

**26 November 2020****Agenda Item:4****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE****RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO HIGHWAY ASSET MANAGEMENT****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval to take forward the recommendations contained in the report to Communities and Place Committee.

**Information**

2. The recommendations set out below - and which form paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of this report - arise from the deliberations of the Communities and Place Review and Development Committee which took place at its meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2020.

**Osha Recoveries Ltd, claims recovery service**

3. This report is accompanied by a presentation which will provide Members with further information and details about Osha Recoveries Ltd. (*previously known as Artemis*).
4. Via EM Ltd. has engaged Osha Recoveries Ltd to assist in the recovery of costs associated with damage to highway assets as a result of third party incidents on the network. Osha Recoveries Ltd provides a team of damage recovery professionals who have extensive experience of working with insurance companies to agree and to settle damage claims. Working collaboratively with Osha Recoveries Ltd, Via EM Ltd. has modified its cost recovery strategy and its methods of capturing evidence to maximise the amounts which are recovered.

**Recommendations****Footway & cycleway maintenance**

5. 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, this review is to 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, this recommendation will be enacted with immediate effect.
  - The relative proportions of highways revenue and capital funding available to undertake repairs, maintenance or improvements to footways and cycleways will be reviewed to ensure they are proportionate to the amount of pedestrian and cyclist traffic which can be reasonably expected, this review is to be completed by March 2021.

## **Communications with the Public**

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

- Via EM Ltd. will seek to improve the public's perceptions of its highways asset management practices, this shall include the production of a number of short videos which will be available on-line. These videos are to 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, these investigations are to be completed by June 2021.

## **Endorsement of the County Council's highway asset management approach.**

7. 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 principals 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 – *of course* – be delivered within the bounds of the budget available.

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

8. The recommendations set out above have been arrived at following due consideration of the available options by the Committee.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

9. 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**

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

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

1) To seek approval to take forward the recommendations contained at paragraphs 5,6 and 7 of the report to 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 (SJE 23/10/2020)**

11. This decision falls within the Terms of Reference of the Communities & Place Review & Development Committee to whom responsibility for the review and development of all functions falling under the remit of the Authority's Communities & Place Committee, including those relating to the planning, management and maintenance of highways (including traffic management), has been delegated.

### **Financial Comments (RWK 26/10/2020)**

12. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from the 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.

- Nottinghamshire County Council's Highway Network Management Plan  
<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/110443/highwaynetworkmanagementplan.pdf>

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

- All