

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP – 8 MARCH 2017

Title of report	HOW LEICESTERSHIRE'S ROADS, PAVEMENTS AND VERGES COULD BE MANAGED IN THE FUTURE - LCC CONSULTATION
Contacts	Councillor Alison Smith MBE 01530 835668 alison.smith@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Director of Services 01530 454555 steve.bambrick@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Community Services 01530 454832 john.richardson@nwleicestershire.gov.uk
Purpose of report	To seek comments from Policy Development Group to help inform the Council's response to the County Council's Highways consultation document
Council priorities	Homes and Communities
Implications:	
Financial/Staff	N/A
Link to relevant CAT	N/A
Risk Management	N/A
Equalities Impact Screening	N/A
Human Rights	N/A
Transformational Government	N/A
Comments of Head of Paid Service	Report is satisfactory
Comments of Deputy Section 151 Officer	Report is satisfactory
Comments of Deputy	Report is satisfactory

Monitoring Officer	
Consultees	Portfolio Holder
Background papers	Leicestershire County Council Cabinet report 13 December 2016
Recommendations	THAT POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP MAKE COMMENT ON THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER IN RESPONDING TO LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council have received notification of Leicestershire County Council's (LCC) consultation regarding their Highway Maintenance Policy and Strategy. The consultation runs from 30 January to 26 March 2017.
- 1.2 It is proposed that due to Highways matters being a regular cause for resident comment that Policy Development Group members have an opportunity to comment on the consultation document and inform a response to LCC.
- 1.3 The consultation document is attached at Appendix 1

2.0 LCC RATIONALE FOR CONSULTATION

- 2.1 A previous report "A-Roads to Zebras – A Comprehensive Maintenance Review" outlined the need to review and update current highway maintenance policy and strategy, including a replacement of the authorities Transport Asset Management Plan.
- 2.2 The review was deemed necessary by LCC in order to;
- Align maintenance policy and strategy with the current asset management guidance endorsed by the Department for Transport (DfT)
 - Align maintenance policy and strategy with a new national code of practice "Well Managed Highway Infrastructure" published October 2016
 - Take account of the anticipated reduction in highway maintenance budgets over the period of the current Medium Term Financial Strategy
 - Support LCC's aim of achieving the highest level of performance required to secure the maximum financial allocation available from the DfT's Incentive Fund from 2018/19 onwards.
- 2.3 An initial consultation exercise was carried out by LCC between 5 July and 25 September 2016 to ensure that the development of the maintenance strategy and policy took account of stakeholder views.
- 2.4 An online questionnaire received 454 user responses and a further 27 responses from parish councils. Three parish and town council workshops were attended by a total of 62 people while just one person from a cycling user group attended a general stakeholder workshop. The consultation provided comprehensive customer feedback about the current

satisfaction with maintenance standards, the priorities that apply to particular assets and opinions about the application of a risk based approach to dealing with critical defects. It also provided views on the options for rationalising particular highway assets as well as the challenges and level of support for further developing opportunities for community involvement.

2.5 LCC have used the feedback to shape their policy and strategies which include:

- Prioritising high risk repairs when responding to highway defects. This may mean other repairs could take longer than before, but LCC will be clear about timescales
- Focussing on planned maintenance work to help slow down the deterioration of roads. As a result, users may notice more 'road patching' or 'surface dressing' being carried out
- Preventative work will be 'risk based' and determined on how roads are 'categorised' in a new classification of highways
- Discussing with parish councils opportunities for their involvement in local maintenance, such as grass cutting and the maintenance for trees, flower and shrub beds
- Introducing a targeted approach to gully cleansing, which will help improve service levels
- Keeping winter maintenance, such as gritting, at current service levels
- Reviewing the way LCC handle maintenance communications with the public and parish councils
- The development of a pilot scheme that would provide Parish Councils with the option of introducing Highway Warden/Lengthsman arrangements. It is proposed to run this as an initial pilot scheme to explore the benefits and costs for both Parish and County Councils.

3.0 NEXT STEPS

3.1 Policy Development Group are asked to make comment on the consultation proposals (Appendix 1) in order that a response can be provided by the Portfolio Holder before the consultation closes.