

## HIGHWAYS

### 1. Cabinet decisions since the last Executive Report to the County Council

- 1.1 There will have been 5 Cabinet meetings (29 March 2016, 18 April 2016, 16 May 2016, 20 June 2016 and 11 July 2016) since the last Executive Report to County Council. The items of business specifically attributed to this portfolio were:-

#### Cabinet 18 April 2016

### **ENHANCED ROUTINE MAINTENANCE (HIGHWAYS) FUNDING**

[Forward Plan ref: A012/16]

#### **Decision**

1. Cabinet approved a programme of enhanced highways maintenance, as set out in Section 5 of the report, to be funded as follows:
  - a) £0.385m from the Members' Locality Budget for 2016/17 (as identified by County Council on 23 February 2016);
  - b) £0.7m from existing Highways revenue maintenance;
  - c) up to £0.77m from the revenue element of Members' 2016/17 Highways Locality budgets (£10,000 per division where such amount is uncommitted as at 6 April 2016); and
  - d) the balance from the Commuted Maintenance Reserve.
2. Cabinet agreed that, in relation to the Pothole Action Fund:-
  - e) to allocate up to £10,000 to each county division, where such amount has been deducted as a result of c) above from the recently announced Pothole Action Fund, to be used in accordance with the conditions of the Fund; and
  - f) the remainder of the Pothole Action Fund be added to the countywide programme of permanent pothole repairs/prevention works.
3. Cabinet noted the terms of the declaration to be given by the Director of Resources to the Department of Transport and confirmed his authority to give the declaration.

#### Cabinet 11 July 2016

Cabinet will consider proposals for an interim policy to 'dim' and 'trim' LED street lighting.

### 2. Consequences of Cabinet decisions before the last meeting of the County Council on 17 May 2016

- 2.1 Nothing to report.

### **3. Anticipated/future decisions to be made by Cabinet**

- 3.1 At its September meeting Cabinet will consider a proposal for the establishment of criteria for Playstreets in Hertfordshire

### **4. Key Partnerships**

- 4.1 Nothing to report

### **5. Other comments**

- 5.1 Thank you to fellow Members for selecting the sites for patching within the pothole scheme although a few were marginally after the deadline. All the proposed schemes have now been passed across to Ringway in a single batch for them to procure using economies of scale. The schemes will then be programmed in amongst the 75,000 other works activities that are taking place on our network this year.
- 5.2 The enhanced maintenance programme is already underway with the cleaning of illuminated signs in North Herts and white lining in Stevenage.
- 5.3 Video technology is being used to help identify which signs to repair and where to target vegetation clearance.

Overall, we are aiming to:

- Clean up to 84,000 road signs
  - Clear 22km of ditches
  - Trim 152km of hedges
  - Refresh 900km of white lines and markings
  - Finish the gully dig outs and dig out 2,300 roadside channels
- 5.4 Previously, I have reported that my officers and I would be working closely with Ringway to improve effectiveness and efficiency and this continues.
- 5.5 The cleaning of illuminated signs mentioned above is being undertaken by street lighting gangs at the same time as they are bulk changing the lamps. There are no additional labour costs for doing either of these combined activities because of the efficiency improvements made within the overall street lighting service over the past year.
- 5.6 I am working alongside officers and we are using the lessons learned from the street lighting improved service which was delivered last year and will be applying them across the wider highways service.

### **IWP 2016/17 Progress update**

- 5.7 At the start of April 2016 our programme of works for the current financial year was to deliver 1,171 schemes, valued at £32.9m.
- 5.8 By the end of May we had successfully completed 254 sites and spent £10.3m.

5.9 Highlights include:

- Completion of 90% of the surface dressing programme in 4 weeks (May), which is 3 weeks faster than previous years for similar volumes; the remaining 10% of sites are to be undertaken in July as part of new material trial.
- On schedule to complete the carriageway micro-surfacing programme by the end of July, which is 4 months ahead of our previous best year, even with a larger workload than previous years.

5.10 Our primary challenge over the last two months has been the combination of wet weather in April and breakdowns of some specialist equipment. This slowed our micro-surfacing programme. This has, however, been overcome by the use of additional contracting resources to minimise delays and protect our planned delivery deadlines.

5.11 Looking forward to the end of October we expect to have:

- completed 896 out of the 1,171 programme (76%), and
- spent £25.8m out of the total £32.9m budget (78%).

5.12 Looking forward to the 2017/18 delivery year, planning is already well under way with the various project candidate lists being compiled and provisionally budgeted for ready for the bidding process in October. Our next publication, of draft 2, will take place in July thus aiding Members to select their Highway Locality Budget funded works.

## 6. Cabinet Panels

6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Highways Cabinet Panel has met on 26 April 2016 and 8 July 2016. The matters discussed can be found at the following locations:

**26 April 2016**

<https://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/440/Committee/49/Default.aspx>

**8 July 2016**

<https://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/614/Committee/49/Default.aspx>

**Terry Douris**  
**Executive Member for Highways**  
**July 2016**