

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

- 1.1 There will have been 2 Cabinet meetings (19 September and 9 November) since the last Executive Report to County Council. There were no items of business specifically attributed to this portfolio.

**2. Consequences of Cabinet decisions before the last meeting of the County Council on 19 July 2016**

- 2.1 The Enhanced Highways Maintenance programme has been started. Members will be given local updates as the work affects their area.

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

- 3.1 At its January 2017 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 Responding to Emergencies**

Whilst local members will be aware of emergency events happening in their Division, they may not be aware of what seems to be a glut of incidents across the highway network recently.

I'm pleased to report that after considerable co-ordination with multiple agencies the utilities are completing their works in Fontmell Close ready for opening at the end of November.

One of the more complex incidents that we have had to deal with is the removal and clean up following the dumping of an unknown substance on our bridleway at Gore Lane, near the A10 in East Herts. Chemical testing identified the individual components of the substance, but not actually what it is, so it has been named 'gloop!' The gloop not only reacted with the surfacing of the bridleway to create a hazardous material, it seeped into the adjacent water course and lagoons, necessitating over 300,000 litres of contaminated water to be pumped out and disposed of, followed by dredging works, new pipework and the resurfacing of the bridleway.

It is during incidents like this, involving multi-agencies that one can see that our services, including Ringway, compare favourably to others, despite our own challenges.

Following an incident involving a collapsed sewer at Vicarage Road, Watford, I felt it necessary to request a review involving the relevant utilities to stress the

importance of communication and finishing works off quickly to avoid unnecessary disruption to local residents.

## 5.2 Future Highways

In September, the Highways and Environment, Planning and Transport Cabinet Panels met together to get a glimpse of what our future highways could look like, so that we can start to think how we are going to plan for them.

The step change in technology is not far away:

- Autonomous Taxis are already being trialled in Singapore and Pittsburgh
- Trials involving connected freight vehicles will be made on the M1 during 2017.
- Ford is expecting to have an autonomous car on general release by 2021

Key to all of this is the capture and analysis of 'big data'. These are large data sets that may be analysed computationally to reveal patterns, trends, and associations, especially relating to human behaviour and interactions. This will enable the equivalent of Apple, Google and Uber to plan and manage the transport of the future.

The County Council is part of the national 'One Transport' programme aimed at creating useable and transferable traffic data.

## 5.3 Road Safety

Hertfordshire's road casualty statistics for 2015 have been published recently. The good news is:

- Accidents have decreased by 4.7% (decreased by 4.3% nationally) compared with 2014.
- Casualties have decreased by 5.9% (decreased by 4.3% nationally) and this is the second lowest total on record.
- There were no child fatalities.

However, killed or seriously injured casualties increased by 3.3% (but decreased by 2.9% nationally)

There will be a more detailed report coming to the December Highways Panel on the subject.

## 6. Cabinet Panels

- 6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Highways Cabinet Panel has met on 12 September 2016 and 21 October 2016. The matters discussed can be found at the following locations:

[Highways Cabinet Panel - 12 September 2016](#)

[Highways Cabinet Panel - 21 October 2016](#)

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