

EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIO: HIGHWAYS

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

- 1.1 There will have been 4 Cabinet meetings (12 December 2016, 23 January 2017, 20 February 2017 and 13 March 2017) since the last Executive Report to County Council in November 2016. The Highways Integrated Works Programme for 2017/18 will be considered by Cabinet on 13 March 2017 (see paragraph 3 below).

2. Consequences of Cabinet decisions before the last meeting of the County Council on 15 November 2016

- 2.1 The Enhanced Highways Maintenance programme is nearing completion, see below.

3. Anticipated/ future decisions to be made by Cabinet

- 3.1 The Cabinet meeting on 13 March 2017 will consider whether to approve the proposed Highways Integrated Works Programme for 2017/18.

4. Key Partnerships

- 4.1 Nothing to report.

5. Other comments

5.1 Highways Restoration Project

This time last year my Highways Cabinet Panel and Full Council identified that it was not just the structural integrity of the highways assets that need to be preserved, but their functionality was becoming a priority.

We also recognised that there was the need to invest in some 'one-off' restoration activity to bring some of the assets back into a more serviceable condition in the first instance and this is what we have done.

We are coming towards the end of the Restoration Project, which has tackled those works which may not have required annual maintenance to the extent that we should be able to keep our roads in a reasonable condition within our core budgets going forwards.

I hope members have taken the opportunity to highlight any remaining signs that they thought required cleaning before the end of the project, as the Restoration crews are standing down on 31 March 2017.

5.2 Department for Transport Highways Maintenance Incentive Fund

I am pleased to confirm that the Highways Service has achieved the highest status within the Department for Transport's Local Highways Maintenance

Incentive Fund in recognition of our approach to asset management. The reward for this status is that we do not lose funding.

5.3 Highways Integrated Works Programme (IWP) 2017/18

The IWP for the coming year will be submitted for Cabinet approval in March 2017. The proposed budget is £36.4m including £4.8m of Members promoted Highway Locality Budget funded schemes being delivered via the IWP contracting routes.

There are over 1000 schemes which range from about £2k for a small cul-de-sac resurfacing to £1.5m for the A10 Kingsmead Viaduct project.

The ambition is to deliver 75% of the total spend by the end of October 2017.

This is designed to make the best use of the better weather months. A lot of effort has also been made to ensure the IWP does not adversely affect a number of major schemes due in the year, such as the A602 realignment works.

5.4 Street Lighting LED phase 4 conversion

£18.5 million is being invested in Phase 4 of the LED street lighting project. By the end of this three year project all our street lights (bar a few heritage lights) will be LED and be controllable from County Hall.

Our approach to managing our street lighting service, including how we have been delivering the LED project, has raised interest at both national and international levels. A few weeks ago I met a delegation from Singapore that is interested in adopting our model.

5.5 Road Safety update

- The Hertfordshire Road Safety Partnership led the 'Put it Away' mobile phone campaign continues with more police enforcement, publicity and media. The campaign has now been adopted by Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Constabularies. Radio interviews have been supported by posters on petrol pumps, service stations and bus backs, and coverage across a wide range of print and broadcast outlets. Social reach from the County Council and Fire and Rescue accounts alone has been measured at 284,194. Further reach has been achieved through Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office social media.
- Following confirmation by the Department for Transport of a further 3 years of funding, the number of children attending the Council's 'Bikeability' cycle training continues to increase. Despite January to March traditionally seen as 'quiet' months, courses booked for the 3 months are up from 40 courses in 2016 to over 60 courses in 2017 with more children attending each course. Total numbers for 2017 are likely to exceed 2016 by some margin.

- In a recent exercise the Council's Highways Safety Engineering programme was reviewed to understand the cost benefits achieved in terms of casualty reduction. This review identified that, for each pound spent, ten pounds were saved to the community (calculated using national figures for the "value" of an injury).

5.6 A602 major Project Implementation

In May, we shall also be starting construction of the A602 Stevenage to Ware Improvement Scheme, which is another Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) funded project.

5.7 Single Local Growth Fund

We have been successful in attracting new funding support from the LEP via Local Growth Deal 3 for two new projects:

- Improvements to the A10 Roundabout at Buntingford; and
- Improving access to an important industrial area in Broxbourne including building a new river bridge at Essex Road.

6. Cabinet Panels

- 6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Highways Cabinet Panel has met on 8 December 2016 and 9 February 2017. The matters discussed can be found at the following locations:

[8 December 2016](#)

[9 February 2017](#)

Terry Douris
Executive Member for Highways
March 2017