

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

- 1.1 There will have been 4 Cabinet meetings (10 April 2017, 23 May 2017, 26 June 2017 and 10 July 2017) since the last Executive Report to County Council. The item of business specifically attributed to this portfolio is set out at paragraph 3 below.

2. Consequences of Cabinet decisions before the last meeting of the County Council on 23 May 2017

- 2.1 On 13 March 2017 Cabinet approved the Integrated Works Programme for 2017/18.

3. Anticipated/ future decisions to be made by Cabinet**3.1 Cabinet – 10 July**

Cabinet will be invited to approve the Transport Asset Management Plan Annual Progress Report for 2016.

- 3.2 No other Cabinet decisions are anticipated at this stage.

4. Key Partnerships

- 4.1 Nothing to report.

5. Other comments**5.1 Road Condition**

Hertfordshire has some of the Country's busiest roads. Our 3,000 miles of road see more than five billion car trips each year and support two-and-a-half times the national average of lorry journeys. It is therefore inevitable that our roads require more frequent maintenance and we know that neither we, nor the rest of the Country can afford to have perfect roads, but it is comforting to know that the condition of our roads is in line with - or better than - the national average, according to a new Department for Transport (DfT) survey.

The DfT's report 'Road Conditions in England 2016' found that three per cent of Hertfordshire's 'A roads' have reached the point where they should be considered for maintenance, which is the same as the national average. The County's 'B and C roads' are better than average for the East of England, with six per cent requiring maintenance compared to seven per cent regionally. The survey found that 15 per cent of Hertfordshire's 'Unclassified roads', which make up the majority of the network and include most country lanes and local urban roads, should be considered for work, which is better than the national average of 17 per cent and the regional average of 20 per cent.

5.2 Integrated Works Programme

By the end of May the Highways service had completed construction of just under a quarter of the Integrated Works Programme. This is slightly ahead of our initial programme set at the beginning of April.

Completed schemes include:

- 125 Surface dressing schemes
- 69 Micro surfacing schemes
- 39 Resurfacing schemes
- 30 Footway treatment schemes
- 5 Integrated transport schemes
- 4 drainage schemes
- 2 Structures scheme

A significant amount of planning and coordination went into the development of this 2017/18 programme. This is paying dividends as we are well on target to complete our programme to plan. Our surface dressing programme is already complete and our micro programme is planned for completion in September.

5.3 More Holes in the Ground

Hertfordshire's geology continues to challenge us with another deep hole opening up in Hemel Hempstead. Whilst we do not own the sub soil below the road construction we have been taking on the role of 'good neighbour' and co-ordinating the investigations and remediation works, as we did at Fontmell in St Albans.

The ultimate solution for these holes can often be fairly low tech – filling them with foam concrete - but the investigations to establish the exact nature, extent and cause of them can be quite complex. On that basis, the investigation we undertook at Fontmell has been shortlisted within Ground Engineering Magazine's awards for a "Ground Investigation Project with a Geotechnical Value of up to £500k".

5.4 A10 Kingsmead Viaduct – Barrier Renewal Works

The 12-week barrier renewal works on the A10 Kingsmead Viaduct were completed on the 16 June, one week ahead of schedule. The project has involved the replacement of the central reserve safety barrier, and improvements to the drainage both on and off the bridge. This also included drainage works inside the bridge itself, which would not have been obvious to the public.

Owing to the disruptive and extensive nature of the works we took every opportunity to carry out other highway maintenance operations at the same time. These included road markings, carriageway patching repairs, bridge parapet repairs, vegetation clearance, replacement of old signs and litter picking. The County Council undertook a very active press and social media campaign during the construction works. This was to both inform our customers on the progress and problems, but also to give them an insight into what the works involve, along with a bit of history behind the viaduct and its original

construction. Customer engagement has demonstrated that we have reached a far greater audience, with a positive outcome.

All this effort will extend the life of the bridge for many years; preserve its safe use by the public and reduce the need for us to return and do other works on the structure in the near future.

5.5 Road Safety Strategy

The County Council is leading a review of the road safety strategy on behalf of the Road Safety Partnership which will be circulated to Panel Members for review in October. The review will be based on an extensive strategic needs assessment of all relevant and available data and will outline the key priorities for the partnership to address the safety risks to road users and pedestrians.

5.6 Street Lighting Awards

As you know we are investing £18m over the next three years to convert all our remaining street lights to LED and CMS technology as well as keeping our ageing columns safe and operational into the long term. All of this has been at a fraction of the cost of the original PFI deal that was originally awarded and then withdrawn in 2010. Our approach to providing an economically and environmentally sustainable solution has been recognised nationally with the winning of the Chartered Institute of Highways & Transportation's 'Sustainability' award in June.

6. Cabinet Panels

- 6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Highways Cabinet Panel has met on 22 June 2017. The matters discussed can be found at the following location:

[Highways Cabinet Panel - 22 June 2017](#)

Ralph Sangster
Executive Member for Highways
July 2017