

PORTFOLIO: HIGHWAYS

1. Cabinet decisions since the last meeting of County Council

- 1.1 There will have been 4 Cabinet meetings (18 December 2017, 22 January 2018, 19 February 2018 and 19 March 2018) since the last Executive Report to County Council on 21 November 2017. The following items of business were specifically attributed to this portfolio:-

Cabinet – 18 December 2017

A051/17- Winter Service Criteria: Cabinet agreed the winter service criteria for implementation in 2018/19.

A075/17 - Highways Drainage Gully Emptying and Cleaning Service: Cabinet approved proposed revisions to the gully emptying and cleaning service and proposed changes to the highway fault reporting system.

A072/17 - Highway Service Review: (i) potential extension of highways service term (Ringway) contract and (ii) potential extension to the client support term (Opus-Arup) contract: Cabinet agreed that the Client Support Term contract with Opus International Consultants (UK) Limited and Ove Arup and Partners Limited be extended in accordance with the contract for a period of up to 5 years; and that the Highways Service Term Contract with Ringway Infrastructure Services Limited be extended in accordance with the contract for a period of up to 5 years. A further report will be presented to the Panel at a later date on the final contractual arrangements for the extension of the contracts as mentioned above.

Cabinet – 19 February 2018

A086/17 - New River Bridge (Essex Road, Hoddesdon): Cabinet agreed to proceed with all necessary statutory processes and to take all necessary steps, to enable the delivery of the New River Bridge, Essex Road, Hoddesdon.

2. Consequences of Cabinet decisions before the last meeting of the County Council on 21 November 2017

- 2.1 Nothing to report.

3. Anticipated/ future decisions to be made by Cabinet

Cabinet – 19 March 2018

A089/17 - Highways Integrated Works Programme and Procurement Routes 2018/19: Cabinet will be asked to approve the Highways Integrated Works Programme for 2018/19 and the procurement routes for its delivery.

Cabinet – 18 June 2018

A090/17 – To consider whether to approve changes to the current Highways Resilience Network: Cabinet will be invited to consider whether to approve the proposed changes.

A021/18 – Proposed LED Illumination Strategy: Cabinet will be asked to approved the proposed Strategy.

A022/18 – Approval of Winter Service Operational Plan (WSOP) 2018/19: Cabinet will be asked to approve the WSOP.

4. Key Partnerships

4.1 Nothing to report

5. Other comments

5.1 The theme of my report this month is the relentless pace of technology.

5.2 We all know that technology is enabling a period of rapid change in transportation which will pose opportunities and threats in equal measures.

5.3 The DfT (Department for Transport) has indicated that we will see the first fully autonomous vehicles on the roads in 2021 and a target for a sales ban on new petrol and diesel cars has been set for 2040.

5.4 That said, we don't know exactly what is going to happen, or when, or how, but I want us to track and influence the impending revolution within the County, rather than sit back and let things get done to us.

5.5 The best way to track and influence is to connect into academic, government and industry networks.

5.6 Both Ringway and Opus Arup have committed to work with us to prepare for the future.

5.7 Opus Arup will be recruiting a specialist, manager to co-ordinate stakeholders across the County Council and its partners to develop our approach whilst providing the gateway to the global expertise of Opus, WSP and Arup.

5.8 Ringway is making a bid to join our service into the Knowledge Transfer Partnership scheme. The scheme helps businesses in the UK to innovate by linking them with research organisations and post graduates and enable new skills and latest thinking to deliver innovation projects through research and knowledge-based partnership. If successful, this will help us think about how we go about making provision for transport in the proposed new garden town of Gilston and in towns like Watford and Stevenage that are undergoing significant regeneration and growth.

- 5.9 Rupert Thacker, one of our senior officers, is joining the Senior Advisory Group of the new Smart Mobility Research Unit at the University of Hertfordshire.
- 5.10 Turning to specific initiatives, the County Council has recently participated in a part funded Innovate UK public private partnership project called oneTRANSPORT. The project investigated the feasibility of making access to highway transport data, especially real time traffic data, easier. This enabled a case study to look at managing traffic during Watford's home football games more intelligently. As a result, the County Council and Watford Borough Council were able to introduce initiatives that led to lower levels of traffic congestion and better utilisation of parking arrangements during home fixtures.
- 5.11 We are also hooked up with Essex CC and Telensa, the company that provides the central management system for our LED street lights. Telensa will be extending use of our lighting communication systems to prove the technology to trial the value of:
- Gully monitoring: blocked street drains (gullies) cause flooding, and monitors can alert and even predict problems before they cause a flood.
 - Highway wind monitoring: instantly alerts the highways team of high winds or gusts, and builds a data set that helps to predict dangerous local driving conditions.
 - Traffic monitoring and analytics: from dimming unnecessary streetlighting on empty roads to understanding local traffic patterns.
 - Waste bin monitoring: enables cleaner streets through more responsive collections, and helps make sure there is enough capacity where it is needed.
 - Air quality monitoring: provides street-by-street measurement of air quality to complement the broad picture provided by existing monitoring stations.
- 5.12 Finally, as you know, the Corporate Plan includes a specific action to use the central control system for LED lights to enable more variable arrangements for part night lighting and dimming. Based on recent research that shows that the human eye reacts differently to different types of light, we will be looking at whether we can not only dim LED lighting further, but also reduce the exaggerated contrast between the light and dark patches that the eye perceives. We will start with an informal trial in Stevenage and, if this proves successful, we will undertake more formal trials in both Watford and Stevenage. I would be pleased to invite my fellow Group Spokespersons to observe these trials. If these trials prove successful, then this will provide the opportunity to switch lights off later and back on earlier within the Part Night Lighting regime, without increasing costs, or the carbon impact.

6. Cabinet Panels

- 6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Highways Cabinet Panel has met on 31 January 2018 and 7 March 2018. The matters discussed can be found at the following locations:

[Highways Cabinet Panel - 31 January 2018](#)

[Highways Cabinet Panel - 7 March 2018](#)

Ralph Sangster
Executive Member for Highways
March 2018