

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PLACES

10 December 2014

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY

COMMITTEE – PLACES

REVIEW OF HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE – PROGRESS REPORT

1. The Purpose of the Report

To inform the Committee of the progress made by the Highway Maintenance Review Working Group.

2. Information and Analysis

The Committee, at its meeting on 16 July 2014, agreed to undertake a review of highway maintenance process and a working group was appointed to conduct the review (Cllrs Lauro, Southerd, Hill, Spencer and Atkins).

Following the appointment of Cllr Southerd to the position of Deputy Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Infrastructure, in November 2014, Councillor Southerd has stepped down from the I&S Places Committee and the Highways Maintenance working group. Given the timescale of the review, the Chair of the Committee has already asked Cllr Michelle Booth to take up the vacant position on the working group so that the progress of the review is not delayed. This was done on the understanding that Cllr Booth's appointment would be confirmed at the next formal meeting of the full Committee.

The working group has held a series of meetings (five to date) to investigate the three main components of highways maintenance:

- Identification of the work required
- Planning, co-ordination and scheduling of work
- Physical completion of work

The working group has been informed of the Highways Division's vision for a Single Asset Management System (SAMS) which will bring together a number of asset management systems and provide the information required for the Highways Control Centre to schedule work and monitor progress. This will dramatically improve information

sharing within the department, enable highways defects to be repaired in a timely fashion and improve the delivery of planned programmes of work. Key to the success of this new approach is real time updating of job start and finish times on tablet computers in the field.

In addition to meeting with relevant officers and the Cabinet Portfolio holder, Members have visited two Highway Depots (Stonegravels and Willington). These visits provided an opportunity for Members to meet with highways inspectors and to see, at first-hand, maintenance work being undertaken.

On 27 November the Chair of the Working Group, Cllr Lauro, visited Leicestershire County Council. Angela Glithero (Assistant Director Resources and Improvement), Geoff Pickford (Service Director Highways) and Roz Savage (Improvement and Scrutiny Officer) also attended the site visit. The purpose of the visit was to see how Leicestershire's Highways Control Centre operates and to learn from the experiences of another Council.

Considerations

The relevance of the following factors has been considered in preparing this report; Finance, Human Relations, Legal and Human Rights, Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Equality and Diversity, Environmental, Health, Property and Transport

3. Recommendations

The Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Places is asked to;

- (1) Confirm the appointment of Cllr Michelle Booth to the Highways Maintenance working Group
- (2) Note the investigations already undertaken by the highways maintenance review working group

Councillor Kath Lauro

CHAIR, IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PLACES