

Report to: Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
Date of meeting: 16 October 2017
By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport
Title: Highway Policy Review
Purpose: To seek agreement for the amendments to Highway Service policies.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Lead Member is recommended to:

- (1) Rescind the policies set out in appendix 3; and
 - (2) Approve the proposed amendments to the policies set out in appendix 5; and
 - (3) Approve the proposed new policies set out in appendix 6.
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1. Background Information

1.1 Many of the tasks carried out by East Sussex County Council's Highways department are statutory duties or powers defined by national legislation. The highway policies set out the County Council's position where local discretion is permitted in how duties or powers are applied, or in areas for which there is no legislation.

1.2 Highway maintenance policies and standards have been developed and adopted by East Sussex County Council over the years:

- to ensure compliance with statutory requirements and industry best practice;
- in response to incremental changes and improvements to operational practices; and
- to provide consistency and clarity for customers and key decision-makers.

1.3 In 2015/16 East Sussex County Council carried out a highway service policy review as part of the Highways Contract Re-procurement Project. The review supported the preparation of the new Highway and Infrastructure Services Contract (2016-23). The key policies that required immediate updates were amended and approved at that time.

1.4 A further review of the highway policies has been carried out to ensure that they comply with:

- current national legislation, guidance and best practice;
- corporate priorities and the local transport policy; and
- the new Highways and Infrastructure Services Contract outcomes.

2 Supporting Information

2.1. Consultation has been carried out with key stakeholders including the officers and contractors with particular expertise in each area and those responsible for delivering the highway service. This has included Legal Services, Transport Development Control, Strategic Economic Infrastructure, Road Safety, Parking, Public Transport Services and the relevant Highways Teams. Policies have also been compared to those of neighbouring authorities to ensure a consistent approach.

2.2. Equality Impact Assessments have been carried out and a summary of findings can be found in in Appendix 1. The analysis and evidence demonstrates that there is little potential for discrimination and that all appropriate opportunities to advance equality and foster good relations between groups have been taken.

2.3 Following the review of existing highway policies, proposals have been made to rescind, update or leave each policy unchanged. The need for two new policies has also been identified and proposals have been included.

2.4 The following list summarises the proposals for each of the policies included in this report. A detailed explanation for each recommendation can be found at appendix 2, copies of the policies to be rescinded can be found at appendix 3 and the new proposed policies can be found at appendix 6. Appendix 4 shows the policies in their current form and copies of the policies with their proposed amendments can be found in appendix 5.

Policies to be rescinded (Appendix 3)

PS 1.2 The Transport Policies and Programme (TPP)

PS 4.22	Lorry Parking at Transport Cafes
PS 4.26	Direction Signs for Events in Rural Areas
PS 4.28	Speed Cameras
PS 7.1	Parts of the Transport Asset Management Plan and associated Maintenance Manual Policy Documents (TAMP) – Chapter 8: Provision and Maintenance of Street Lighting and Illuminated Signs and Chapter 7 Procedure for dealing with public liability claims.

Policies to be updated (Appendix 5)

PS 3.1	Procedure for the Preparation of Road Schemes
PS 3.4	Technical Approval of Highway Structures
PS 3.6	Provision of Passing Places
PS 3.7	Provision of Lay-bys
PS 3.8	Noise Insulation Regulations 1975 - Discretionary Aspects
PS 4.16	Responsibility for off street parking
PS 4.19	Residents Parking Schemes – charges
PS 4.27	Event Signing on Lamp Posts
PS 4.3	Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders for Bodies other than the Highway Authority
PS 4.37	Passive Safety
PS 4.5	Control of Heavy Goods Vehicles
PS 8.2	Banners Across the Highway
PS 8.3	Obstructions on the Highway
PS 8.4	Permission to Trade on the Highway
PS 8.5	Posts on Highway Verges
PS 10.1	Street lighting

New Policies (Appendix 6)

Safety Certification of Sports Grounds
Highway Claims

2.5 It should be noted that this is not a comprehensive list of all Highway related policies and that there are additional policies for which no changes were considered necessary or which are currently undergoing further consultation and review.

3 Financial Appraisal

There are no specific financial implications in respect of the recommendations detailed in this report. All policy changes will be carried out from within existing approved budgets.

4 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

4.1. The highways policies have been reviewed to ensure that they support:

- the latest national legislation, guidance and best practice;
- the County Council's corporate priorities and local transport policy; and
- the new Highways Infrastructure Services Contract outcomes.

4.2. Following the review, proposals for new policies, updates and rescindments have been made (details in appendix 2).

4.3. The Lead Member is therefore recommended to approve the proposals to ensure that East Sussex County Council has clear, consistent and up to date policies in its approach for managing the highway network.

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LOCAL MEMBERS

All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Equality Impact Assessments