

**Report to:** Lead Member for Transport and Environment

**Date of meeting:** 19 November 2018

**By:** Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

**Title:** Highway Policy Review

**Purpose:** To seek Lead Member agreement for the amendments to Highway Service policies and strategies

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Lead Member is recommended to:

- (1) Rescind the policy sections and Drainage Management Strategy summarised in Appendix B and detailed in Appendix C;**
  - (2) Approve the proposed new Highway Skid Resistance policy summarised in Appendix B and detailed in Appendix D; and**
  - (3) Approve the proposed amendments to the policies and Highway Asset Management Strategy summarised in Appendix B and detailed in Appendix E.**
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## **1. Background Information**

1.1 Many of the maintenance tasks carried out by East Sussex County Council's Highways department are statutory duties or powers required by legislation. The Council's highway policies set out the Council's approach 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 Highways over the years to:

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

1.3 During 2017 an initial review of the highway policies was undertaken with those that required amendments being updated and approved by Lead Member at the meeting on 16 October 2017. Further reviews of highway policies and related strategies have been carried out to ensure that they comply with:

- current legislation, guidance and best practice;
- corporate policies and priorities along with the local transport policy; and
- Highways and Infrastructure Services Contract needs and outcomes.

## **2 Supporting Information**

2.1 In carrying out these reviews, 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 the appropriate technical experts including the Highways Asset Management Team. Policies have also been compared to those of neighbouring authorities to ensure a consistent approach.

2.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and a summary of the findings is detailed in Appendix A. The analysis and evidence provided 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 amend a number as appropriate and the need for a new policy to formalise our approach to the management of highway skid resistance has been identified.

2.4 The following list summarises the proposals for each of the policies included in this report. A summary of each recommendation can be found in Appendix B; copies of the policies to be rescinded are detailed in Appendix C and a new proposed policy is detailed in Appendix D. Appendix E shows the policies and strategies in their current form and with their proposed amendments.

#### **Policies to be rescinded (Appendix C)**

- Highway Drainage Strategy 2015 – 2018
- Transport Asset Management Plan – Chapter 2 section detailing Carriageway and Footway Warning Levels
- Transport Asset Management Plan – Chapter 6 Guidance Notes on SCRIM and Skidding Resistance

#### **New Policies (Appendix D)**

- Highway Skid Resistance Policy

#### **Policies to be updated (Appendix E)**

- Highway Asset Management Policy
- Highway Asset Management Strategy 2018-2024
- Highway Drainage Policy

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 during this review.

### **3 Financial Appraisal**

3.1 There are no additional financial implications in respect of the recommendations detailed in this report.

### **4 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations**

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

- current legislation, guidance and best practice;
- the County Council's corporate priorities and local transport policy; and
- Highways Infrastructure Services Contract needs.

4.2. The Lead Member is recommended to approve the proposals summarised in Appendix B and detailed in Appendices C, D and E, to ensure that East Sussex County Council has clear, consistent and up to date policies describing its approach to managing and maintaining the highway network across the county.

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#### LOCAL MEMBERS

All

#### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Equality Impact Assessments