

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 23 April 2019

By: Assistant Chief Executive

Title: Scrutiny Review of Road Repairs

Purpose: To provide an opportunity for the Cabinet to consider the report of the Place Scrutiny Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

To consider any comments the Cabinet wishes to make to the County Council on the report of the Place Scrutiny Committee.

1 Background

1.1 The condition of the County's roads is something that is of interest to all residents and businesses in East Sussex and is one of the most frequent topics raised with councillors. Many residents question the Council's approach to pothole repairs, asking why some potholes are repaired and others nearby are not. Some residents do not believe this represents value for money and that it would be more economic to repair all the potholes at the same time, rather than coming back repeatedly to the same location.

1.2 The Place Scrutiny Committee established a Scrutiny Review in June 2018 to examine this issue and number of other road maintenance concerns reported to the Committee. The scope of the review includes:

- Road repairs, both reactive pothole repairs and planned resurfacing work;
- The quality of repairs;
- How the Council tackles highway drainage problems; and
- The repair of pavements (added following initial scoping work).

1.3 The Review examined an number of lines of enquiry which reflect the issues raised by residents and councillors, namely:

- How the Council communicates its approach to highway maintenance;
- Whether the current approach to pothole repairs is the right one and represents value for money;
- The quality of the repair and resurfacing work;
- The time it takes to repair blocked drainage infrastructure once it is reported and initial work carried out; and
- The repair of pavements and the factors that affect their condition.

2 Supporting information

2.1 The Place Scrutiny Committee has completed its Scrutiny Review of Road Repairs. The Review makes eleven recommendations which address the areas of highway maintenance covered by the review. A copy of the report is attached at appendix 1.

2.2 Overall the Review Board finds that the Council's arrangements for road repairs are robust and there is a commitment to continuously improve the approach to highways maintenance. The Board has made a number of recommendations which it believes will help improve road maintenance, respond to residents' concerns and highlight issues that warrant further attention.

2.3 The Committee's report will be submitted to the County Council on 14 May 2019. The Cabinet has the opportunity to comment to the County Council on the recommendations in the Scrutiny Committee's report, although it cannot alter the report.

3 Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 Cabinet is invited to consider any comments it wishes to make to the County Council on the report of the Place Scrutiny Committee.

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Local Members: All

Background Documents: None