

Report to: Place Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 18 March 2020

By: Chair of the Review Board

Title: Scrutiny Review of Road Markings

Purpose: To present the outcomes of the scrutiny review and make recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Committee considers and endorses the report of the Review Board, and makes recommendations to Cabinet for comment, and County Council for approval.

1. Background

1.1 The poor condition of some road markings on the County's roads has come to the attention of the Place Scrutiny Committee. Of particular concern is condition of road markings that are important for road safety such as pedestrian crossings, and the implications this may have for road safety. The Place Scrutiny Committee carried out an initial scoping exercise to explore the maintenance arrangements for road markings and potential lines of enquiry for a scrutiny review.

1.2 The Place Scrutiny Committee established a Scrutiny Review at its meeting on 18 September 2019 to examine this issue. The scope of the review includes:

- The types of road markings, how frequently they are renewed;
- the specifications for road markings and how they are applied;
- whether utility company reinstatement works are replacing road markings adequately;
- the road markings the Parking Team is responsible for (e.g. double yellow lines, parking bays etc.); and
- the role of the Road Safety Team regarding road markings.

1.3 The lines of enquiry which have been explored in this review are:

- Could the current system of prioritisation for routine maintenance work to refresh/renew road markings be improved?
- Why do some road markings appear to wear out more rapidly than expected?
- How frequently are parking enforcement road markings renewed and are there additional road markings that could be paid for from the parking budget?
- What do other local authorities spend on road markings and is the ESCC level of expenditure adequate?

1.3 The Review Board has examined evidence from key officers involved in the maintenance and provision of road markings. The challenge for the Board has been to develop recommendations that will bring about improvements, whilst taking into account the Council's current financial position.

1.4 The Review Board heard evidence that road markings are one of the most cost effective ways of promoting road safety and are also important for the efficient flow of traffic on the County's roads. Overall the Review Board finds that the Council's arrangements for the maintenance of road markings are able to deal with safety defects and the renewal of some road markings. However, under the current arrangements it has not been possible to keep up with the rate at which road markings are wearing out. The Board has made a number of recommendations which it believes will help improve the maintenance of road markings. It welcomes the approval of an additional £1million of one-off funding in 2022/21 for Highways infrastructure programmes through

the budget setting process, and the allocation of some of this funding for an additional road marking gang.

2. Summary

2.1 The members of the Review Board are Councillors Godfrey Daniel (Chair), Stephen Shing and Barry Taylor.

2.2 The attached report (appendix 1) contains the findings and recommendations of the Review Board. Copies of evidence papers listed in the report and other support documentation are available on request from the contact officer.

2.3 The Committee is recommended to receive the Review Board's report for submission to Cabinet and County Council on 21 April 2020 and 12 May 2020 respectively.

3. Recommendations and conclusion

3.1 The Committee is requested to consider and endorse the report of the Review Board for submission to Cabinet and Full Council.

COUNCILLOR GODFREY DANIEL Chair of the Review Board

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LOCAL MEMBERS: All.