

REPORT OF THE PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Place Scrutiny Committee met on 23 September 2020.

Present: Councillors Bob Bowdler (Chair), John Barnes, Martin Clarke, Godfrey Daniel (Vice Chair), Chris Dowling, Nigel Enever, Darren Grover, Pat Rodohan, Stephen Shing, Andy Smith and Barry Taylor

Also present: Councillors Nick Bennett (Lead Member for Resources), Claire Dowling (Lead Member for Transport and Environment), and Keith Glazier (Leader and Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development).

1. Scrutiny Review of Road Markings

1.1 The Place Scrutiny Committee has completed its Scrutiny Review of Road Markings. A copy of the Committee's full report is attached at Appendix 1.

1.2. A Review Board was established in September 2019 and was comprised of Councillors Godfrey Daniel (Chair), Stephen Shing, and Barry Taylor. The review examined the maintenance and provision of road markings in the County and in particular the condition of road markings that are important for road safety.

1.3 The scope of the review includes:

- the types of road markings and 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.

1.4 The Review 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 finds that the Council's arrangements for the maintenance of road markings can 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 Review makes a number of recommendations which it is hoped will improve the maintenance of road markings.

1.5 The Place Scrutiny Committee **recommends** to the County Council that –

1.5.1 Officers continue to keep a watching brief on the development of new road marking materials and techniques and carry out trials to evaluate their effectiveness in reducing costs and increasing the durability of road markings.

1.5.2 The requirement to inspect road markings as part of routine inspections, and the categories of road markings important for road safety, are included in regular reminders to Highway Stewards and customer service staff.

1.5.3 The responsibilities of the utility companies and Highways England regarding road markings are made clear in the information provided on the East Sussex Highways web site.

1.5.4 When considering the allocation of resources for highway maintenance and road transport schemes, increased priority is given to funding for road markings to reflect their contribution to road safety.

1.5.5 The parking budget is recharged for all parking enforcement road marking renewal work with immediate effect, and the money used for additional highway road marking maintenance work.

1.5.6 Should any new Government funding become available for highway maintenance consideration is given to using a portion of it to improve the condition of road markings in the County (if allowed by the conditions attached to the funding).

1.5.7 Priority is given to renewing road markings that are important for road safety, such as those listed in paragraph 19 of the report, when determining the use of the additional one-off funding in 2020/21.

1.5.8 Consideration is given to including the funding to improve and maintain road marking in the base budget for the core services in the Highways Infrastructure Maintenance contract from 2023 onwards when it is re-procured.

[See also Report of the Cabinet – 10 November 2020]

23 September 2020

BOB BOWDLER
Chair