

REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 26 April 2016. Attendance:-

Councillor Glazier (Chair)

Councillors Bennett, Bentley, Chris Dowling, Elkin, Maynard, Simmons and Tidy

1. Scrutiny Review of Highway Drainage

1.1 The Cabinet has considered a report of the Economy, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee on its review of Highway Drainage. The report is included elsewhere on the agenda (see item 18). The Scrutiny Committee established a Scrutiny Review Board with the following aims: to examine the arrangements for the maintenance of highways drainage; to understand County Council responsibilities; examine recent improvements; and establish whether there is any scope to further improve this service.

1.2 The Scrutiny Committee examined the factors that lead to the efficient and effective management of highways drainage infrastructure in order to prolong the life of the carriageway surface, prevent flooding and ensure road safety. The review looked at all the factors involved with highways drainage including the arrangements for gulley emptying; maintenance of drainage ditches and grips; maintenance and renewal of highway drainage pipes and culverts; and the impact of street cleansing on highway drainage.

1.3 The Scrutiny Committee, through its work on the Highways contract re-procurement, understands the important role that highways drainage has in prolonging the life of the carriageway surface, preventing flooding and ensuring road safety and has previously been informed that:

- The Highways Asset Management Plan covers gullies and the County Council knows where all the (100,000) gullies are located, but does not have full knowledge of all the highway drainage infrastructure (such as drainage ditches, grips, pipe runs, soakaways etc.). Work is continuing to improve the knowledge of this asset.
- The County Council has moved away from a system where all gullies are emptied on a fixed frequency, to a frequency of emptying based on silt levels and the history of flooding (e.g. some problem gullies that become blocked easily are emptied more frequently, whilst others are emptied less frequently).
- The highways drainage is surveyed, tested and repaired/replaced before major road resurfacing work takes place as part of the capital project to resurface the road.

1.4 The Scrutiny Review of Highway Drainage is welcomed as it highlights the importance of the drainage asset, and aligns with our ambitions for the new highways contract around improving our drainage assets.

1.5 In welcoming the findings of the Scrutiny Committee, the Cabinet has considered a report by the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport (as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, circulated separately to all members) on the specific recommendations and endorsed it as its response to the recommendations

1.6 The Cabinet, in welcoming the report, recommends the County Council to –

- ✧ approve the response of the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport on the implementation of the recommendations in the Scrutiny Committee's report.

26 April 2016

KEITH GLAZIER
(Chair)