

Herefordshire Council

General Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Title of review	Highways maintenance – pothole repairs							
Scope								
Reason for enquiry	To consider the highway maintenance plan and seek to address concerns expressed within the community about the potential mismatch between policy and practice on pothole repairs.							
Links to the corporate plan	<p>The review contributes to the following objectives contained in the Herefordshire corporate plan and other key plans and strategies:</p> <p><b>Corporate Plan 2016-2020</b></p> <p>Priority: Supporting the growth of our economy.</p> <p>Measure: Overall satisfaction with the condition of highways.</p> <p>Support economic growth and connectivity (including broadband, local infrastructure, transport and economic development)</p> <p><b>Corporate Delivery Plan 2017/18</b></p> <p>Priority: Support the Growth of the Economy</p> <p>Support economic growth and connectivity (including broadband, local infrastructure, transport and economic development)</p> <p>Deliver the LTP Programme, providing an enhanced, accessible, safe and integrated transport network supporting economic growth</p> <p>Measure: Condition of Principal; Non-Principal Roads (B/C roads); and Unclassified Roads</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="376 1872 952 1951"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="376 1872 619 1951">Road Class</th> <th data-bbox="619 1872 788 1951">2013</th> <th data-bbox="788 1872 952 1951">2017</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Road Class	2013	2017			
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	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>A Road Red</td> <td>9%</td> <td>6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A Road Amber</td> <td>36%</td> <td>38%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B Road Red</td> <td>8%</td> <td>7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B Road Amber</td> <td>34%</td> <td>33%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C Road Red</td> <td>11%</td> <td>8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C Road Amber</td> <td>36%</td> <td>36%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U Road Red</td> <td>32%</td> <td>26%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Priority: Secure better services, quality of life and value for money</p> <p>2 Ensure our essential assets, including schools, other buildings, roads and ICT, are in the right condition for the long- term, cost-effective delivery of services</p>	A Road Red	9%	6%	A Road Amber	36%	38%	B Road Red	8%	7%	B Road Amber	34%	33%	C Road Red	11%	8%	C Road Amber	36%	36%	U Road Red	32%	26%
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Summary of the review and terms of reference	<p>Summary: To consider the highway maintenance plan and seek to address concerns expressed within the community about the potential mismatch between policy and practice on pothole repairs.</p> <p>Terms of Reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To consider the strategy in context including the approach to maintaining the highway asset, the level of maintenance and repair that the plan caters for, and budget constraints.</li> <li>• To review a sample of the work undertaken – seeing examples of repairs (in the context of the plan) and,</li> <li>• To understand the rationale for prioritisation of repairs and the nature of repairs and consistency of approach.</li> </ul>																					
What will NOT be included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other aspects of the BBPLP public realm contract</li> </ul>																					
Potential outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To confirm that the highway maintenance plan is fit for purpose or identify improvements.</li> <li>• To establish whether the highway maintenance plan is operating as efficiently as resources allow and serves the needs of the whole county.</li> </ul>																					
Key Questions	<p>To consider:</p> <p>What is the current policy?</p> <p>How effective is it?</p>																					

	What improvements can be recommended?
Cabinet Member	Councillor Durkin – Transport Roads and Regulatory Services
Key stakeholders / Consultees	<p>Balfour Beatty – living places</p> <p>Herefordshire Council Councillors (For this exercise they will reflect any views of Parish Councils known to them. It is proposed that a separate exercise allowing the requisite time for Parish Councils to respond on the operation of the BBLP contract as a whole will be conducted later in the year.)</p> <p>Director Economy Communities and Corporate/Assistant Director – Environment and Place/Head of Highways and Community Services</p> <p>External Highways Maintenance Expert</p>
Potential witnesses	<p>Director Economy Communities and Corporate/Assistant Director – Environment and Place/Head of Highways and Community Services</p> <p>BBLP</p>
Research Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Policy</li> <li>• Council Policy (The LTP Policy documents and the first section of that document on Asset management. Our Highway Maintenance Plan and the code of practice ‘Well managed Highway Infrastructure’.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200136/travel_and_transport/220/local_transport_plan/1">https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200136/travel_and_transport/220/local_transport_plan/1</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads/707/highways/2">https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads/707/highways/2</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance information</li> <li>• Comparative Information</li> <li>• Customer satisfaction data (including information on level of insurance claims)</li> <li>• Best practice locally, regionally and nationally</li> </ul>
Potential Visits	To see good example of repairs (in the context of the plan) and inferior examples.
Publicity Requirements	No advance publicity/wider public information gathering is proposed. Together with the communication team, a plan should be put in place to ensure awareness of meeting at which final report is to be discussed and that findings are disseminated clearly.

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Outline Timetable (following decision by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to commission the Review)	
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Confirm approach, Terms of Reference, programme of consultation/research/provisional witnesses/meeting dates	By 30 April
Collect current data available for circulation to Group for first meeting of the Group	By 30 April
Analysis of data/Interviews	May 2018
Carry out stakeholder meetings (Spotlight meeting)	n/a
Final analysis of data and stakeholder evidence	n/a
Prepare options/recommendations	June 2018
Present final report to General Overview & Scrutiny Committee	September 2018
Prepare cabinet report	September 2018
Present options/recommendation to Cabinet	September 2018
Cabinet response/decision	October/November 2018
Monitoring of implementation of agreed recommendations	May 2019

Group Members	
Chair	
Support Members	
Support Officers	J Coleman T Brown