

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>General scrutiny committee</b>
<b>Meeting date:</b>	<b>Wednesday 6 March 2019</b>
<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>Task and finish group report - highways maintenance - pothole repairs</b>
<b>Report by:</b>	<b>Chairperson of the task and finish group</b>

## **Classification**

Open

## **Decision type**

This is not an executive decision

## **Wards affected**

(All Wards);

## **Purpose and summary**

To consider the Task and Finish Group's report on highways maintenance – pothole repairs.

The committee is asked to approve the recommendations for submission to the executive. The committee established the task and finish group to seek to address concerns expressed within the community about the potential mismatch between policy and practice on pothole repairs

## **Recommendation(s)**

**That: the committee considers the task and finish group's report at appendix 1 and decides whether to agree the findings for submission to the executive.**

## **Alternative options**

1. The recommendations proposed in the Group's report represent the Group's findings. If there are any additional recommendations that the committee wishes to make these can be considered at the meeting.

## Key considerations

2. This committee established the task and finish group on 2 July to consider the highway maintenance plan with a specific focus on pothole repairs. Members had identified during consideration of the public realm contract in January 2018 that it appeared that the local perception within parishes of conditions on the ground did not match the picture of improvement being presented by both client and contractor. The task and finish group was established to seek to address concerns expressed within the community about the potential mismatch between policy and practice on pothole repairs. As part of this work views of Parish Councils were sought.
3. The group's report is attached at appendix 1. The committee is asked to agree the recommendations for submission to the executive. The response will be provided following the council elections in May 2019.

## Community impact

4. In accordance with the adopted code of corporate governance the council is committed to promoting a positive working culture that accepts and encourages constructive challenge and recognises that a culture and structure for scrutiny are key elements for accountable decision making, policy development and review.
5. The task and finish group's recommendations contribute to the following priorities in the corporate plan: Support economic growth and connectivity (including broadband, local infrastructure, transport and economic development) and deliver the LTP Programme, providing an enhanced, accessible, safe and integrated transport network supporting economic growth.

## Equality duty

6. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:  
A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -
  - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
  - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
  - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
7. If the committee agrees with the findings of the task and finish group, the report will need to be considered by the executive and, depending on their decision, due regard will need to be given to the public sector equality duty.

## Resource implications

8. The recommendations agreed by the committee will be sent to the executive. In considering their response an assessment of resource implications will be undertaken.

## Legal implications

9. The functions of the general scrutiny committee include the powers to make reports or recommendations to the executive with respect to the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the executive.

## **Risk management**

10. The recommendations agreed by the committee will be sent to the executive. In considering its response the executive will need to assess any risks arising from the recommendations.

## **Consultees**

11. All Parish and Town Councils were invited to comment on the matters identified within the scope of the review. The full responses are appended. The principal areas of reported concern were: repairs being carried out to some potholes in a cluster leaving others nearby unrepaired; quality of repairs and auditing of repairs including those carried out by statutory undertakers.; speed of repair; value for money; working practices (numbers of employees/use of surplus materials); and pothole prevention.
12. Whilst recognising that members of Herefordshire Council would have input through and in consultation with local councils within their wards, ward members were also invited for comment to see if they had identified any additional concerns. No additional areas of major concern were identified.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - report of the task and finish group – highways maintenance – pothole repairs.

## **Background papers**

None identified.