

## Record of Operational Decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Decision to Become Members of the Future Highways Research Group
<b>Date of decision:</b>	6th June 2022
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Mark Averill – Interim Service Director for Transport and Highways
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	Delegated to the Interim Service Director for Highways, Environment and Waste under the scheme of delegation for the Economy and Environment Directorate, specifically section 75 to ensure the effectiveness of the authority's organisation and decision-making processes.
<b>Ward:</b>	Countywide
<b>Consultation:</b>	Consultation not required.
<b>Decision made:</b>	Decision to take out an annual membership of the Future Highways Research Group (FHRG) at the cost of £4950 + VAT for the year. Fees to be paid from the Public Realm Contract Management Team budget.
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>The FHRG is a forum for highways sector leaders to share knowledge and experiences and identify, develop and assess innovations with the potential to transform the sector through the application of academic research frameworks and methods.</p> <p>Members comprise the leading highways authorities across the country, sharing best practice and participating in ground-breaking research. The work of the FHRG is endorsed through partnership with ADEPT, the leading professional organisation for directors of place in local authorities.</p> <p>The annual membership fee provides unrestricted access to the research outputs of the FHRG and will also include an independent, annually conducted Value for Money (VfM) Assessment, as well as access to the anonymised VfM benchmark data.</p> <p>The benchmarking exercise will compare our highways service against other local authorities, helping us to focus on the quick wins to bring about tangible service improvements. There are also many other FHRG resources that can help with service delivery and on deciding how to structure the model in the future.</p>
<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b>	<p>Membership of the FHRG will allow HC access to unique tools, resources and databases that can be used in improving the current and future highways service.</p> <p>These resources will be used to inform decisions on service provision that will be approved in the appropriate manner such as by Cabinet or delegated authority. Any risks or financial, legal or equality considerations resulting from those decisions will be highlighted at the appropriate time.</p> <p>The risk of not engaging with the FHRG and its resources is that decisions will not be informed by best practice and may not offer best value for money.</p>

<b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b>	<p>The FHRG is the only highways best practice association that has the active participation of top-performing highway authorities and is endorsed by ADEPT.</p> <p>There is no suitable alternative organisation.</p>
<b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>	<p>None</p>

Signed..... Date: