

## TRUNK ROADS IN HEREFORDSHIRE

Report By: Director of Environment

### Wards Affected

County wide

### Purpose

To consider the written response from the Highways Agency to the issues raised by Members at the meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee on 28 February 2005.

### Reasons

The Highways Agency has provided a written response to the many issues submitted to them in writing for consideration at the special meeting of the Committee on 28 February 2005.

### Considerations

1. When representatives of the Highways Agency attended the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee in February, they undertook to provide the Council with full, written responses to the questions which were tabled at the meeting. That reply has now been received and is attached as Appendix 1. Copies are being sent to the relevant local Members.
2. Since that meeting, the former Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation) has written to the Secretary of State for Transport, Alistair Darling, expressing concern about the management of the A49. The Secretary of State has been asked to consider a change in the method of management of this trunk road to allow Herefordshire and Shropshire to undertake management on behalf of the Highways Agency. At the time of preparing this report, no reply had been received.
3. The second Local Public Service Agreement is currently being prepared by the Council in negotiation with the Government. A Road Safety target has been included to reduce further the annual number of killed and seriously injured casualties in Herefordshire to 130 by 2007 from the figure of 141 in 2004. To achieve this level of reduction, the Council is making clear to Government that there will have to be greater engagement of the Highways Agency to deliver more safety schemes on the trunk roads in the county. This Council is recommending that a substantial "pump priming" grant be allocated to support the implementation of more accident prevention measures on the trunk roads.

### Risks

The Council could be at risk of failing to deliver the proposed road casualty reduction target if the Highways Agency does not fully participate in delivery of the second Local Public Service Agreement.

**Recommendation:**

**THAT Members consider the written responses provided by the Highways Agency.**

**Background Papers**

- A49 Route Management Strategy (Highways Agency 2004)