

Agenda item:

[No.]

Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

On 21 January 2009

Report Title: Repairs to Highways

Report of **Niall Bolger, Director of Urban Environment**

Signed :



Contact Officer :Joan Hancox, Head of Sustainable Transport: Telephone- 020 8489 1777

Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **Non Key Decision**

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1.To provide further update information relating to progress made with implementing the executive responses to recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member (if necessary)

- 2.1. [click here to type]

3. State link(s) with Council Plan Priorities and actions and /or other Strategies:

- 3.1. A key action in the Council's Plan for the next three years is to improve road condition, street infrastructure and road safety. This is to be achieved by delivering the planned and reactive maintenance programme for roads and pavements:

4. Recommendations

- 4.1. It is recommended that the committee notes progress to date in addressing the recommendations of the scrutiny report on repairs to highways and footpaths.
- 4.2. Notes the further action to be taken.

5. Reason for recommendation(s)

- 5.1. An update was requested by Scrutiny Committee in March 2008

6. Other options considered

- 6.1. N/A.

7. Summary

- 7.1. In March 2006, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee conducted a review of the council's processes and procedures for repairs to highways and footpaths. The purpose of the review was primarily to focus on repairs, maintenance and communication issues affecting the service.
- 7.2. In July 2006, a report containing executive responses to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was presented to the cabinet. The report's recommendations were agreed by the cabinet and in addition it was requested that the recommendations were incorporated in the Business plan for 2007/08.
- 7.3. Actions to take forward the recommendations were included in the Business Plan and an update of progress in implementing the recommendations and further action planned were detailed in the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in October 2007.
- 7.4. Further updates of progress were presented to the Committee on 17 March 2008 and officers have been further requested to provide This has been updated again for the Committee and is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

8. Chief Financial Officer Comments

8.1. The recommendations of the Scrutiny review of highways are being progressed through the Frontline services business plan and as part of the Council's financial planning framework. Additional Council investment and external funding is being utilised to assist with bringing the boroughs road and footway network up to national standards. However, limited resource availability implies that timescales to achieve targets may be longer than anticipated.

9. Head of Legal Services Comments

9.1. The Head of Legal Services comments that the extent of the duty of a highway authority to repair a highway is to keep the highway in such a state as to be safe and fit for the ordinary traffic which may reasonably be expected to use it. There is a wide discretion as to the economic approach to methods to be employed to meet the duty.

10. Head of Procurement Comments –[Required for Procurement Committee]

10.1. N/A

11. Equalities & Community Cohesion Comments

11.1. The Council's Equal Opportunities Policy requires services to be provided to all stakeholders. It is therefore imperative that highway locations are adequately maintained to ensure safe use by all categories of highway users.

11.2. The Disability Discrimination Act also requires highway authorities to ensure that safe access is provided for disabled users of the public highway. It is important that all highway locations are adequately maintained to avoid contraventions of the stipulations of the Act.

12. Consultation

12.1. N/A

13. Service Financial Comments

13.1. The Highways Asset Management Plan has been developed to identify the required level of service to be delivered for both pavements and roads.

13.2. This has ensured that budget allocations for maintenance during 2008/09 has assisted in the improvement of the network in the most cost effective way.

14. Use of appendices /Tables and photographs

- 14.1. Appendix 1 – Update of implementation of recommendations of the Scrutiny Review on repairs to highways and pavements in Haringey

15. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 15.1. Progress update on Scrutiny Review of repairs to highways and footpaths – 17 March 2008
- 15.2. Executive Responses to Scrutiny Review of Repairs to Highways – 25 July 2006

APPENDIX ONE

Update on implementation of recommendations of the Scrutiny Review on repairs to highways and pavements in Haringey

Summary of Recommendation	Updated Comments (Jan 2009)	Future Actions
1. Utilise Asset Management Plan to secure appropriate investment in infrastructure.	A draft Highway Asset Management Plan was agreed by Cabinet 18.3.08. Action plan included Key areas of the plan included; • IT Systems • Procurement options • Survey information • Inventory Information Data from the draft asset management plan has been used to support funding bids for 2009/10 and beyond. A bid for £50k has also been submitted to DFT to progress work on the Highways Asset Management Plan.	The Council is currently in the process of procuring a new Highway Term Contract. A condition survey has been commissioned and is due to take place by the end of January 2009, which will determine priorities for investment.
2. Explore alternative funding for maintenance of road network.	The Council has explored various options in relation to the Directorate Public Realm Contract. Although no extra funding has been identified, the Council has recently secured an allocation under the Section 106 agreement for footway works proposed on Endymion Road.	Continue to explore funding streams in order to maximise maintenance budget.
3. Prioritise future budgets so that better value for money can assist the department's move towards robust system of maintenance.	The Highways Works Plan was agreed by Cabinet on 18.3.08 which details the use of the proposed budget allocation in 2008/09. It also started to plan for two years ahead with future plans being	We are continuing to develop the HAMP and HWP to improve delivery efficiencies and targeted maintenance.

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	3 year plans annually reviewable. Implementation of current schemes is progressing well and will continue to seek alternatives source of funding.	
4. Review practice of continual patching of defective surfaces just below intervention levels.	Previous investments limit the amount of locations that can be treated annually. However, as the public see potholes as a high priority a new Pothole Blitz commenced in May 2008 and is progressing well. To date, in excess of 2000 potholes have been repaired. The current Pothole Blitz scheme will continue until February 2009. Haringey Council is currently in the process of preparing a programme for 2009/10. The final programme will be based on the condition survey results due in February 2009.	When the asset management plan and long term integrated works programme are fully financed, defective locations identified via actual deterioration models will be treated in accordance with best practice.
5. Consider how life spans of highway locations can be prolonged & financial implications of changes in materials or practice to achieve this.	Life spans of highway can be prolonged by carrying out total reconstruction of roads and pavements. The cost of total reconstruction is about five times the cost of conventional surface replacement. Additional Budget	Future mitigation of highway deterioration will be addressed through implementing an integrated forward works programme that is linked to the recommendations contained in the Highways Asset Management Plan.

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	allocations have not been made available for the total reconstruction of damaged road surfaces. However, more robust materials have been used in areas where external funding is available.	In line with the Greenest Borough Strategy officers are investigating how the durability and sustainability of Highway materials can be improved. We are continuing to identify and resurface roads within the Planned Maintenance Programme.
6. Ensure housing developers reimburse the council for costs incurred to repair damage they cause to highway locations.	Sustainable Transport has liaised with Development and Building Control departments to ensure all developments are notified and appropriate deposits secured to cover repairs to damaged highway	The Council will continue to request deposits from developments affecting the highway to mitigate against any damages on the public highway caused by activities carried out by contractors.
7. The Arboricultural section should adopt best practices for tree management & maintenance	A Trees Strategy has agreed and trees form part of the Asset Management Plan. Highway trees are inspected and maintained at specified intervals. Pro-active works to minimise nuisance issues are also undertaken as and when required. An inventory of the boroughs trees has now been completed as part of the Asset Management Plan	This inventory will continue to be updated as and when trees are planted / replaced.

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8. Lobby TfL to secure additional budget allocations to finance damage caused by buses using minor residential roads.	The department actively pursues this at regular Traffic Liaison meetings and this recommendation has been formally put to them for comments/action In the past TfL have made extra funding available in relation to damage caused by buses using minor residential roads. However, due to shortfalls within the London Bus Priority Network (LBPN) budget this additional source of funding is unlikely to continue.	Highways Services will continue to make representations to seek appropriate funding from TfL and escalate the matter if necessary.
9. Explore strategies to involve Statutory Undertakers in agreeing co-ordinated approach to streetworks to ensure costs & disruptions are minimised.	We hold quarterly meetings for co-ordination of streetworks. Monthly or bi-monthly liaison meetings also held for major schemes.	London Borough of Haringey will continue to hold co-ordination meetings with all Statutory Undertakers in order to explore practical ways of working together to minimise costs and disruptions.
10. The Highways Services & Thames Water should undertake assessment of main drains to establish condition and long term implications of the borough's drainage system.	This has been incorporated in proposals detailed in the council's highway Asset Management Plan. Some progress has been made by utilising the capital allocation for the flood relief and gully replacement budget. These funds have been used to renew damaged pipe work and replace old style gullies	It will be necessary to work closer with Thames Water in the future to ensure that public sewers are free flowing and operational at all times.

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11. All Statutory Undertakers undertaking work in the borough should leaflet all stakeholders with details of work, duration & contacts for emergencies.	This practice is in place for major and planned works. Weekly briefings also provide details of ongoing/proposed works. Details of Utilities works also posted on the Councils website.	We have contacted all utility companies working in the borough to provide better information on project details on site, particularly and we will continue to monitor and enforce this rigorously.
12 Highways to review communication procedures involving stakeholders	Sustainable Transport service is actively involved in Area based working which is also an initiative designed to improve communication links with stakeholders. 'A Road to improvement' survey has also been completed. This survey was designed to identify key areas for improvements as perceived by residents, over 3500 responses were received and this is reported in the Highways Works Programme and has been used to prioritise certain work where the technical need is identical.	We are starting to conduct customer satisfaction surveys on some completed highway improvement schemes. We will also be looking at doing a follow up to the Road to Improvement survey looking more at some of the key policy issues that need Borough wide agreement. As part of the Highways Works Plan a more targeted consultation process for future schemes was agreed as part of the plan at Cabinet on 18.3.08
13. Highways to review channel of communications between respective council departments and how this can be improved.	Frontline service is constantly reviewing channels of communications between respective departments. Transportation planning team is now part of Frontline services (Sustainable Transport) and this will ensure improved co-ordination of schemes and projects.	We will continue to work and liaise closely with the Housing, Education Services, Neighbourhood Assemblies on common projects to ensure improved and seamless project management in future as well as planning at early stages of liaison.

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14. Consider the training of community volunteer wardens to permit them to report highway defects.	Training of community volunteers on how to report highway defects has been concluded. Reference information packs have been distributed to relevant parties.	Regular updates will be provided in future. We are also looking at closer working with Enforcement.
15. Council's website should include provisions for interactive reporting of highway defects.	This provision is already in place.	We plan to develop our IT systems to improve the way we handle reported defects.
16. Review the role and responsibilities of the Business Support Unit and identify areas for improvement	The Business Support Unit now takes the lead for Urban Environment enquiries.	An action plan to improve timelines and quality of responses and correspondence and queries is being developed which will be rolled out for all Sustainable Transport.