

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

20 JANUARY 2022

**REPORT OF PLACE SELECT
COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION

Lead Cabinet Member – Environment and Transport- Councillor Mike Smith

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF HIGHWAYS ASSET MANAGEMENT (INC. POTHOLES & FLOODING)

SUMMARY

The attached report presents the outcomes of the Place Select Committee's review of Highways Asset Management (inc. Potholes & Flooding).

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) / DECISION(S)

This topic was included in the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2021/22. The review is now complete and the recommendations have been endorsed by the Place Select Committee for submission to Cabinet.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That options to utilise, alternative interventions, processes and resources, such as the use of recycled rubber materials, are considered and where appropriate are implemented both as part of delivering more maintenance interventions and contributing towards the Environmental Sustainability & Carbon Reduction Strategy.
2. That options to 'invest to save' are explored and costs and returns are calculated.
3. That options are included, where appropriate, to build on existing collaborative work or procure collaboratively with other Tees Valley authorities to advance innovation, adopt alternative processes and materials, improve efficiency, harmonise standards and maximise integration.
4. That a communications plan is devised and agreed to ensure that all elected Members are made aware of the current Highway Infrastructure asset management processes and current pressures experienced by the Service.
5. That a proactive programme of gully replacement is considered and implemented based on priority, need and available resource.
6. That, recognising that correspondence has been sent to local MPs urging them to lobby Central Government for additional funding, their response and any further actions are kept under review.
7. That, in order to raise awareness of funding issues, the final scrutiny report is shared with the Tees Valley Combined Authority Transport Advisory Group.

DETAIL

1. The attached report outlines the outcomes of the Scrutiny Review of Highways Asset Management (inc. Potholes & Flooding). The aim of this review was to evaluate the opportunities for maintaining the Highways Infrastructure Asset as efficiently as possible, both now and in the future. This review also considered the impact of increasing demands, financial pressures, and climate change issues.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

2. Maintenance of the Highways Infrastructure Asset impacts on the social and environmental outcomes across the Borough's public places and the public's perception of how Stockton Borough Council maintains the highway infrastructure systems.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3. As set out in the Select Committee report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4. As set out in the Select Committee report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

5. This report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

6. Not applicable.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

7. None.

Name of Contact Officer: Judy Trainer

Post Title: Scrutiny Officer

Telephone No. 01642 528158

Email Address: judith.trainer@stockton.gov.uk