

20 January 2016

ITEM: 9

Planning, Transport, Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Highways and Transportation Draft 2016/17 Works Programme

Wards and communities affected:

All

Key Decision:

Key

Report of: Cllr. Oliver Gerrish, Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transportation

Accountable Head of Service: Ann Osola, Head of Transportation and Highways

Accountable Director: David Bull, Director of Planning and Transportation

This report is Public

Executive Summary

Further to the November 2015 Planning, Transport, Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting, this report is a fulfilment of the promise to return for comments on the prioritisation principles used to determine the schemes put forward for delivery within the Maintenance Block of the 2016/17 Highways & Transportation Capital Programme.

It invites comments on the Draft 2016/17 Programme to allow consideration by the Portfolio Holder prior to finalisation of the programme in his report to the March 2016 Full Council Meeting. This report also provides an update on the LED Street Lighting Programme.

1. Recommendation(s)

That Committee:

- 1.1 Comments on planned maintenance prioritisation criteria in line with Government guidance on cost-effective asset management as set out in Appendix 1.**
- 1.2 Comments on draft Highways & Transportation Capital Works Programme 2016/17 in Appendix 2.**
- 1.3 Notes the progress made on the delivery of the LED Street Lighting Programme**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 This report seeks Committee's comments on the prioritisation criteria in line with Government guidance on cost-effective asset management and on a draft Highways & Transportation delivery programme for 2016/17. It also provides an update on the roll out of the LED Street Lighting Programme.

3. Highways Asset Maintenance

- 3.1 Thurrock Council, as a Local Highways Authority has a statutory obligation under the 1980 Highways Act to maintain the highway network as a public asset. Thurrock's highway network includes:
- 560km of carriageway;
 - 1000km of footway;
 - 133 structures;
 - 168 roundabouts;
 - 50 traffic signals;
 - 17,500 lighting columns;
 - 3,500 illuminated signs;
 - 1,500 illuminated bollards;
 - 30,000 signs; and
 - 20,000 gullies
- 3.2 All of the above are used by Thurrock's residents, businesses and visitors. As Thurrock grows and evolves it is important to continue to maintain its existing highway assets as well as new infrastructure to accommodate new developments.
- 3.3 In 2011 the Council published the Transport Asset Management Plan which set out how the Council prioritises planned maintenance investment in line with a whole life approach to asset category maintenance. Guidance issued by the Department for Transport (DfT) states that a Local Authority's asset management policy should be reviewed bi-annually.
- 3.4 Appendix 1 sets out the core principles for prioritisation for each of the blocks within the annual Highways & Transportation Capital Programme. Committee members are invited to comment on these principles and on the draft of the 2016/17 Capital Works Programme contained in Appendix 2. Comments can be received at this meeting but can also be sent to Democratic Services by 3 February 2016 to allow compilation and consideration by the Portfolio Holder prior to the setting of the definitive programme in his report which will go forward for approval to the Full Council in March 2016.
- 3.5 In addition to the 2016/17 delivery programme, funding has been approved for the installation of Low Emission Diode (LED) units for Thurrock's street lighting. The LEDs save on energy and also, as they have longer life, the maintenance costs. The sequence of replacement is to replace lamps on roundabouts, main roads and then the smaller residential units. This

prioritisation allows savings to be delivered at the earliest opportunity. The conversion programme is scheduled for completion by March 2017.

- 3.6 The current position in relation to the roll out of the project is:
- Electrical and structural tests on the existing columns have been completed
 - Replacement of defective columns identified from the testing is 80% complete.
 - The replacement of conventional lamps with the new energy efficient lamp units has commenced with 700 units completed to date, from a total stock of 17,500.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The recommendations support consultation on Highways and Transportation prioritisation principles and proposed schemes in line with national best practice guidance.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 The prioritisation methods for Highways and Transportation Maintenance Programme has been discussed at Transportation, Planning and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee in November 2015.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 This report is consistent with the corporate priorities:
- **Create** a great place for learning and opportunity
 - **Encourage** and promote job creation and economic prosperity
 - **Build** pride, responsibility and respect
 - **Improve** health and well-being
 - **Promote** and protect our clean and green environment

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Mark Terry**
Senior Financial Accountant

The basis for the 2016/17 Highways and Transportation Capital Programme complies with the Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme and thus will give higher chance to the authority to be eligible for the incentive funding as

set out by Department for Transportation. The final programme will be subject to a separate report to Full Council in March 2016.

7.2 **Legal**

Implications verified by: Vivien Williams
Planning & Regeneration Solicitor

The implications are contained in the body of the report.

7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Price**
Community Development Officer

The Highways and Transport Capital Programme will have an impact upon the local community within Thurrock. It will improve and enhance the transport network across the borough making it safer, less congested and more accessible to local people thereby promoting investment, job creation and access to skills and learning.

7.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

None

8. **Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- Cabinet 17 December 2014 Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme – Strategic Review and Recommendations for Improvement
- Council 11 March 2015 Cabinet Member Report – Highways and Transportation Capital Programme 2015/16
- Thurrock Transport Strategy 2013 - 2026
- Health and Wellbeing Board 15 June 2015 Health Impacts of Air Pollution in Thurrock Council
- Planning, Transportation, Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee 4 November Highways Maintenance Update

9. **Appendices to the report**

- Appendix 1 – Highways Maintenance Prioritisation Principles
- Appendix 2 – DRAFT Highways and Transportation Capital Works Programme 2016-17

Report Author:

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Transportation & Highways