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**Meeting:** Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
**Date:** 13 September 2011  
**Subject:** Highways and Transportation Task Force – Progress Report  
**Report of:** Cllr R Johnstone, Task Force Chairman and Cllr J Murray, Task Force Vice Chairman  
**Summary:** The report updates the Committee on the work of the Highways and Transportation Task Force.

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**Advising Officer:** Basil Jackson, Assistant Director, Highways and Transport  
**Contact Officer:** Iain Sutherland, Corporate Policy Adviser.  
0300 300 6022  
**Public/Exempt:** Public  
**Wards Affected:** All  
**Function of:** Council

#### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

**Council Priorities:**

Not applicable to this progress report

**Financial:**

Not applicable to this progress report

**Legal:**

Not applicable to this progress report

**Risk Management:**

Not applicable to this progress report

**Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

Not applicable to this progress report

**Equalities/Human Rights:**

Not applicable to this progress report

**Community Safety:**

Not applicable to this progress report

**Sustainability:**

Not applicable to this progress report

## **RECOMMENDATION(S):**

- 1. (a) That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes and comments on the progress report of the Highways and Transportation Task Force.**

### **Background**

2. The Highways and Transportation Task force was established by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 21 June 2011 with terms of reference to review:
  - the Council's draft "Approach to Parking";
  - the managing agency contract (MAC) with Amey LG; and
  - the Council's draft approach to road and footway maintenance – "Approach to Delivering a Sustainable Highway Network".
3. The Task Force has met on:
  - 11 July 2011
  - 27 July 2011
  - 24 August 2011.

The next meeting will be held on 21 September 2011.

### **Approach to car parking management**

4. At its first meeting the Task Force had a wide ranging discussion about the issues they wanted to include within the scope of the review. Accordingly, at their next meeting the Task Force received and considered reports on the following three matters on which they had decided to focus:
  - controlled parking zones
  - residents' parking zones
  - parking on pavements and grass verges.
5. As a result of their deliberations on these reports, the Task Force agreed that their main recommendation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be that the introduction of controlled parking zones should be used as a major measure available to the Council in respect of parking management.

The Task Force also stressed that such zones would have to be selectively introduced, following proper evaluation, and sufficiently and adequately funded.

6. At their first meeting the Task Force noted that the draft "Approach to Parking" was due to be considered by the Executive on the following day (12 July 2011). The Task force therefore asked for it to be reported direct to the Executive that they unanimously supported, in principle, the draft approach for the purposes of consultation.

7. The Task Force also noted that consultation would be conducted by the Assistant Director - Highways and Transportation and this would include town and parish councils and key stakeholders.

It was reported that a copy of the draft approach to parking had previously been circulated to all Members of the Council. In recognition of the importance of receiving members' views, the Task Force asked for a reminder to be sent.

The Task force has also commissioned a survey of permit holders in residents' parking zones to get their views about:

- the price they are prepared to pay for permits
- how many permits their household requires
- the time restrictions operating in the zone.

In relation to wider stakeholder consultation, the timescales (13 week consultation period) would suggest that the results will need to be reported direct to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in tandem with the Task Force's final report.

### **MAC highways contract**

8. At their meeting on 24 August 2011 the Task Force received and discussed a report from the Assistant Director (Highways and Transport) dealing with the following specific aspects of the MAC contract:
1. Why the highway contract is in its current form;
  2. The features of the contract;
  3. How money is spent (understanding priorities);
  4. How councillors can access the contract;
  5. Value for money of the contract; and
  6. How the contract could be improved.

The Task Force gave consideration to the approach to road and footway maintenance in the context of point 3 above (how the money is spent).

9. The Task Force reached a number of interim conclusions on these matters, which will be developed and firmed up at their next meeting. Particular regard will be had to:
- is the MAC contract the right type of contract for Central Bedfordshire Council?
  - is the contract operating well and delivering value for money ?
  - is there room for improvement?
  - can Member engagement and interaction with the contract be improved?

**Background Papers: None**

**Location of papers:**

Priory House, Chicksands