
Meeting: Executive
Date: 15 November 2011
Subject: Review of Highways and Transportation
Report of: Cllr McVicar, Chairman of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Summary: The report presents the recommendations of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the report of the Highways and Transportation Task Force.

Advising Officer: Gary Alderson, Director of Sustainable Communities
Contact Officer: Basil Jackson, Assistant Director, Highways and Transport
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council
Key Decision No
**Reason for urgency/
exemption from call-in
(if appropriate)** Not applicable

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The matters considered by the Task Force support the Council's priorities of:

- creating safer communities
- managing growth effectively

and are integral to achieving the Council's vision of being "globally connected, delivering sustainable growth to ensure a green, prosperous and ambitious place for the benefit of all".

Financial:

1. The Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommending that an additional £4m a year is included in the highways maintenance budget for the next four years, as set out at paragraph 6.6 of the appended report from the Highways and Transportation Task Force.

Legal:

2. The Highways Act 1980 requires highway authorities to maintain public highways to keep them open for public access and to remove obstructions which may affect the use and safety of the highway.

3. Failure to maintain a public highway can be subject to legal action for enforcement and, if the state of repair of a highway is a contributory factor in a road traffic crash, could result in a claim for damages. It is therefore important that the Council has effective arrangements in place to maintain the highway network for which it is responsible.
4. An important function of the highway authority is to manage on and off-street parking.

Risk Management:

5. The Council's programme of work is managed by Amey which has appropriate staff resources not only within this contract but also which can be called on from outside the contract.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

6. None.

Equalities/Human Rights:

7. Equality impact assessments will be developed in respect of the two strategies considered by the Highways and transportation Task Force.

Community Safety:

8. The Traffic Management Act 2004 places a duty on local traffic authorities to ensure the expeditious movement of traffic on their road network. The Act gives authorities additional tools to better manage parking policies, moving traffic enforcement and coordination of street works which are all important components of community safety.

Sustainability:

9. The effective maintenance of the highway network is a key part of facilitating the Council's sustainable growth agenda.

Procurement:

10. None.

Overview and Scrutiny:

11. This report contains the recommendations of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 25 October 2011, which considered the report and recommendations of the Highway and Transportation Task Force's report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Executive is asked to:

1. **note that the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorsed the draft Approach to Parking as the basis for the development of parking services in Central Bedfordshire, and that a further report will be brought to the Executive for consideration at the end of the public consultation period;**

2. resolve that controlled parking zones be used as a major measure for the management of car parking, provided that such zones are selectively introduced following proper evaluation and are sufficiently and adequately funded;
3. resolve that residents' parking zones as such should not be used by the Council in the future as a parking control measure and that any further requests should be considered in the context of controlled parking zones;
4. note that the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the parking standards (as set out in Appendix C to the draft Approach to Parking) to be fair and reasonable, and that a further report will be brought back to the Executive for consideration at the end of the public consultation period;
5. resolve that the Managing Agency Contract (MAC) contract is the right type of contract for Central Bedfordshire Council and that such a contract should be the default option when considering options for the re-letting of the contract; *(Please see section 2 of Part B of Appendix B)*
6. endorse the Highway and Transportation Task Group's conclusion that the MAC contract is operating well and delivering value for money; *(Please see section 3 of Part B of Appendix B)*
7. endorse the potential improvements as identified in paragraphs 57 to 62 of the attached report of the Assistant Director (Highways and Transport) to the Highways and Transportation Task Force of 24 August 2011 and that those which have not yet been implemented be authorised by the relevant Executive Member (or Executive if deemed necessary) for action by officers and Amey; *(Please see the report of the Assistant Director (Highways and Transport) attached at Part B, Appendix B)*
8. agree additional funds of £4m for each of the next four years to be included in the highways maintenance budget. *(Please see section 3 of Part B of Appendix B)*

Reason for Recommendations: To fulfil the terms of reference of the Highways & Transportation Task Force as outlined in Appendix B.

Executive Summary

12. The Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 25 October 2011 considered the report and recommendations of the Highways and Transportation Task Force.
13. The recommendations of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee are set out in the recommendations to the Executive above.
14. The draft minute of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 25 October 2011 relating to this item is attached at Appendix A to this report. The report of the Highways and Transportation Task Force to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 25 October 2011 is attached at Appendix B to this report.

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| 15. The Executive Members for Sustainable Communities have been involved in the work of the Highways and Transportation Task Force. |
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Conclusion and Next Steps

16. The Executive is requested to consider the recommendations set out above, based on the recommendations of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee made at its meeting held on 25 October 2011. The report made to that meeting and the relevant extract from the Committee's draft minutes are attached for Members' information.

Appendices:

Appendix A – The draft minute of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 25 October 2011 relating to the Highways and Transportation Task Force's report.

Appendix B – The report of the Highways and Transportation Task Force considered by the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 25 October 2011.

Background Papers: (open to public inspection) None.

All papers attached to this report are stored at Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford.