

**EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR
06 MARCH 2017**

SCRUTINY COMMENTS

Highways Asset Management Strategy

The Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee met on 27 February 2017 and considered a report concerning the Highways Asset Management Strategy. The Committee unanimously supported the recommendations included in the report and agreed to pass on the following comments to the Executive Councillor or Highways, Transport and I.T as part of his consideration of this item:

- The Committee supported that the Highways Asset Management Strategy invested a large amount of funding in an appropriate way to ensure the optimal allocation of resources on highways infrastructure going forward.
- The Committee highlighted concern that the reductions in revenue funding would lead to long term deterioration in key assets and supported the proposed investment strategies included in the report, as a way to manage the reduced funding available.
- The Committee highlighted the need to find the most effective way of balancing reducing budgets whilst maintaining spending levels on the principle road network. In addition, the Committee highlighted the relatively small capital maintenance costs and supported the need to ensure maintenance funding was managed effectively, in ensuring that potential additional budget pressures were not to deferred to future years.
- The Committee supported the continued work being undertaken to maintain the “incentive” element of the capital maintenance grant and continue the programme of work to maintain “Band 3” authority status.
- A member of the Committee highlighted areas of smaller maintenance costs and recommended that these continue to be an area of focus due to the level impact a reduction in maintenance in would have on road users. In addition, it was recognised that the level of return on some of the smaller areas of maintenance, such as Signs and Markings was highlighted as good value for money.
- The Committee highlighted the need to consider areas important to the travelling public and ensure this was reflected and balanced within the overall Capital Maintenance Funding.