



Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director - Place

Report to:	Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee
Date:	22nd May 2023
Subject:	Highways Performance Report, Permit Scheme, Year 6 (1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023)

Summary:

The report is a statutory requirement as stipulated by the Department for Transport after a 3-year interval from the last statutory report.

This report sets out an overview of Lincolnshire County Council's operational performance during 2022/23 and provides detailed scrutiny of the available data in relation to street works, road works and activities in Lincolnshire.

Actions Required:

The Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee is invited to:

- (1)** Review and comment on the contents of the report; and
- (2)** Endorse the report and request that it is published via the Lincolnshire County Council website.

1. Background

Lincolnshire County Council adopted a Permit Scheme in October 2016. The scheme requires Lincolnshire County Council to report every 3 years on the overall performance with the production of an Annual Report. Appendix A contains the Lincolnshire County Council Permit Scheme - Scheme Evaluation Report 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023. This report covers the Permitting activity for this time-period to satisfy the legislative requirements.

Over the last year, the permit scheme has seen the following work activity and highlights:

- 66,581 permit scheme applications since the start of the scheme – Table 1 (PI1) (LiPS report page 6).

- The number of permit application approvals has increased by 6% over the past 3 years of the scheme – Table 4 (PI2) (LiPS report page 10).
- A 75% increase in the number of remedial works applications over the past 3 years of the scheme – Table 13 (LPI3) (LiPS report page 20).
- An increase in the number of Fixed Penalty Notices of 7.5% during the 2022/23 reporting period over the previous year – Table 15 LPI4 (LiPS report page 21).
- The Department for Transport (DfT) introduced the Street Manager system in July 2020. Street Manager is a mandatory web-based application where highway authorities and utilities plan, manage and record road works in England. The system provides the DfT with real-time information about all works and works promoters' performance in one central database, and links with the County Council's existing system, Confirm. During the period 2022/23 the capabilities of both Street Manager and one.network improved, allowing the teams to utilise countywide data to coordinate works and monitor activities on the highway.

Street Manager provides many benefits for the operation of the Lincolnshire Permit Scheme which include:

- A single source of road works information reducing duplication, saving time and enabling greater efficiency.
- Open, accurate and up-to-date information on live and planned work made available to the County Council, and members of the public via a live link to one.network.
- Recording of all Fixed Penalty Notices, Section 74 overstays and defect information against permit records, ensuring these are resolved and income is received.
- Visibility of Section 58 notices (enforced following major resurfacing projects to prohibit future utility work for a period of 2 or 3 years), ensuring works are not carried out in these areas within the notice period and therefore prolonging the life of the highway asset.
- Provides works promoters with visibility of other organisations works to reduce works clashes and encourage planning of collaborative works.

Provision of data for the DfT and County Council is used to inform future policy development and assess future areas of priority.

2.

Conclusion

In Year 1, the introduction of a permit scheme enabled powers not previously available under legislation, to be used to improve the management of all activities on the road network through increased co-ordination and timing of works with all works promoters, including works for road purposes.

Year 6 continued to build upon this by coordinating nearly 61,000 work schemes to help maintain a robust network and by being proactive in its measures to correct non-compliance. The number of schemes has approximately doubled from Year 1 to Year 6.

Year 6 saw further development and expansion of digital delivery of Permits via Street Manager allowing the use of in-depth data to better coordinate works, monitor activity

and police the network. One network has been upgraded to greatly assist with road space bookings, planning diversion routes and displaying information for public use. These changes have been vital in handling the increased demand from Utility companies to access to the highway network.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Lincolnshire County Council Permit Scheme - Scheme Evaluation Report 1 st April 2022 to 31 st March 2023

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Mandi Robinson, Network Regulation Compliance Manager – Place, who can be contacted on 078 8093 7386 or mandi.Robinson@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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