

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENT AND PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 14th September 2010
Report of: Strategic Director - Places
Subject/Title: Highway Policy Overview
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Menlove

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report is provided in response to a request from the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee to provide information on the highway policies used by the Directorate and to provide a proposed timetable for their review. The Committee is asked to note the policies and, if appropriate, advise on the timetable of the proposed review.

2.0 Decision Requested

- 2.1 Members are asked to review and comment on the timetable for the review of the highway maintenance policies.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To enable the Directorate to proceed to review highway policies under an achievable timetable for their future submission for Member approval.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All wards are affected equally.

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All ward members are affected equally.

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change - Health

- 6.1 Delivers on the Councils' pledge to improve the standard of maintenance of public highways.

7.0 Financial Implications (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 7.1 There is no cost implication associated with this report. However the subsequent review of the individual policies may have cost implications which will be reported to Members at the time of that review.

8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 8.1 The Authority has duties under the various legislation including the Highways Act 1980, Road Traffic Act 1988, The Traffic Management Act 2004, The New Roads & Street works Act 1991 and the Railway & Transport Act 2003.

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 When originally prepared, the existing policies/strategies ensured that the maximum benefit was obtained through targeted budget expenditure, whilst ensuring the public were able to travel safely within the Authority. The proposed review will further reinforce this approach and ensure that all policies are consistent with Cheshire East's Corporate aims and the Directorate's Plan.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 The Highways Service has a number of policies, inherited from Cheshire County Council as predecessor Highway Authority, which govern the provision of highway maintenance activities within the Authority. Periodically it is necessary to review these policies to take account of legislative changes, best practice and technological advances to ensure all policies are robust and workable and deliver best value on behalf of the Authority, whilst embracing the requirement to provide a safe, accessible highway network.
- 10.2 The Directorate wishes to ensure that the current policies are still robust and fit for purpose and that they are consistent with the Council's Corporate aims and the Places Directorate Plan.
- 10.3 The table at Appendix A to this report, in addition to providing a brief description of each policy sets out the proposed timetable for the review of the existing policies.
- 10.4 In addition to the policies the Service has a number of strategies that support the operation of the highway policies. These strategies will therefore be reviewed at the same time as the supported policy.

11.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

- 11.1 N/A

12.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name:	Gary Mallin
Designation:	Highway Asset & Traffic Manager
Tel No:	01270 686342
Email:	garymallin@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Timetable of Highway Policy Reviews

Policy	Scope	Proposed review
Advertising on the Highway (A Boards, signs & Goods)	This policy sets out the Council's aims on dealing with A boards and goods being displayed on the highway. Providing a set of guidelines for traders to follow.	August 2010
Traffic Calming	This policy sets out the Council's aims in dealing with installation, maintenance and removal of traffic calming features in the highway.	August 2010
Grass cutting	This policy covers the cutting of grass as a road safety measure and details the cutting requirements	September 2010
Hedge & tree maintenance	The policy deals with the safety aspects of hedge and tree maintenance and relates to emergencies. In addition the policy covers the planting of new trees.	September 2010
Highway weed control	This policy sets out the Council's response to dealing with the treatment of injurious and noxious and other general weeds on the highway.	September 2010
Highway drainage	This policy recommends the standards for inspection and maintenance of highway drainage systems including manholes, catchpits and culverts.	September 2010
Gully emptying	This policy sets the standards/frequency for emptying highway gullies.	September 2010
Winter Service	This policy sets out the Council's aims to reduce as far as reasonably practical the effects of adverse weather conditions, in particular ice or snow, on the movement of people and vehicles.	Sept/Oct 2010
Speed Management Strategy	Sets out a hierarchy of intervention measures to deal with speeding issues.	Sept/Oct 2010
Highway defects - S58	This policy sets a frequency for the inspection of the highway and framework for categorising and management of any recorded defects.	Oct/Nov 2010
Highway structural maintenance	Sets the approach to be used in managing the various structural maintenance activities undertaken by the Authority.	Oct/Nov 2010

Highway lighting	Provides direction on the provision of, and standard of, street lighting.	October 2010
Street Café / Alfresco	This policy sets out the licensing requirements for amenities on the highway – street cafes.	October 2010
Obstructions on the Highway (inc rocks and posts)	This policy sets out the actions taken by the Council on dealing with obstructions on the highway such as rocks, posts and other materials.	November 2010
Highway sponsorship	This policy sets out the approach to dealing with applications for proposed highway sponsorship.	November 2010
Traffic sign management and maintenance including tourism, parish, temporary signs	Sets the objective for the inspection, maintenance and replacement of non illuminated signs and bollards.	December 2010/January 2011
Mirrors on the highway	Sets the policy on how mirrors on the highway will be managed.	December 2010
Use of Coloured Surfacing	Sets out directions on if and when coloured surfacing will be used on the highway	January 2011
Repairs to private streets	The policy sets out the scope for discharging the Council's power under S230 (1) of the Highways Act 1980 to 'prevent or remove danger' within a private street.	February 2011
Memorials on the highway	The policy will set out how the council will deal with the sensitive subject of memorials adjacent to the road at accident spots.	March 2011
Pedestrian Crossings	This policy will set down the criteria required to place pedestrian crossing points on the highway, including signalised crossings.	March 2011
Maintenance of road markings & studs	Provides direction for the provision and maintenance of road markings.	April 2011
Maintenance of guardrails and barriers	The policy sets the requirement for maintaining, testing and repair of safety fences and pedestrian barriers.	April 2011
Traffic Signals	This policy sets down the management and maintenance responsibilities of the authority.	April 2011
Skidding resistance	This policy sets out the standards required for skidding resistance on the primary road network throughout the Authority.	April 2011
Highway sweeping	This policy deals with emergency sweeping on the highway	April 2011