

## **Highways and Transport Committee**

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| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>     | 02 March 2022   |
| <b>Report Title:</b>        | Notice of Motion 'Second Winter Gritting Consultation'    |
| <b>Report of:</b>           | John David, Interim Director of Highways & Infrastructure |
| <b>Report Reference No:</b> | HT/40/21-22   |
| <b>Ward(s) Affected:</b>    | All   |

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### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1. This report responds to the Notice to Motion raised at Council relating to the call for a second round of consultation on the amendments to the winter gritting network, entitled "Further Streamlined Winter Service Consultation".
- 1.2. The report outlines the proposed action required to address the issues raised by the Notice to Motion.

### **2. Executive Summary**

- 2.1. This paper proposes a rearrangement and update to the Well Managed Highway Infrastructure(WMHI) web page. This will enable the information requested in the Notice of Motion to be available in one place.

### **3. Recommendations**

The Highways and Transport Committee to note that :

- 3.1. The information requested in the Notice of Motion, where missing, has been added to the web page below:

[https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways\\_and\\_roads/road-maintenance/well-managed-highway-infrastructure.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways_and_roads/road-maintenance/well-managed-highway-infrastructure.aspx).

- 3.2. A link to the WMHI webpage has been added on the Council's public consultation webpage.

#### **4. Reasons for Recommendations**

- 4.1. Much of the information that is referred to in the Notice of Motion is already available on the web page, or was published with the relevant reports, but to assist with the response this information will be reorganised and the page updated for clarity. This report addresses the points raised in the Notice to Motion.
- 4.2. These recommendations align with the Council's Corporate Plan aim of being an open council.

#### **5. Other Options Considered**

- 5.1. There are no other options to be considered, in the interests of being open the required information will be provided on the WMHI webpage with a further link on the Council's consultation page.

#### **6. Background**

- 6.1. The national guidance to which the Council aligns its highway policies and operational procedures 'Well Managed Highway Infrastructure' was released in 2016.
- 6.2. On 04/02/20 Cabinet considered a paper containing proposals relating to the Highway Safety Inspection Policy, Code of Practice for Highway Safety Inspections, Winter and Adverse Weather Policy, Adverse Weather Plan and the Cheshire East Highway Resilient Network Strategy. These documents aligned services with the recommendations of WMHI and had been subject to a round of public consultation.
- 6.3. Cabinet approved the proposals in the paper; however, a call-in request was subsequently received. This call-in related to the winter service element of the proposals.
- 6.4. The call-in request was subsequently considered by the Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee (EROSC) on 16th March 2020.
- 6.5. At EROSC the following recommendations were made and subsequently accepted by the Cabinet:

That Cabinet be advised to:

- (1) To undertake a further round of streamlined consultation on the winter service element only as part of the annual review of the Well Managed Highways Infrastructure annual review process;
  - (2) That this annual review process be carried out through the Area Highways Groups (AHG), including the involvement of all Parish and Town Councils and relevant community/cycle groups as appropriate, with supporting information to be supplied to the AHG's in advance of the meetings and shared with all schools;
  - (3) That a letter be sent to all schools within the Borough informing them of this additional round of consultation as part of the first annual review;
  - (4) That all schools will be given an appropriate amount of time to respond to the consultation as part of the first annual review. (to be discussed with the Portfolio Holder to take into consideration the current public health issues and school holidays). It should be noted that the above recommendations are taken directly from the EROSC minutes
- 6.6.** This consultation and engagement was undertaken as outlined in Section 7 of this report.
- 6.7.** At Council on 15/12/21 a Notice of Motion relating to the second round of consultation was raised by Cllr. Janet Clowes and seconded by Cllr. Tony Dean.
- 6.8.** The Notice of Motion proposed:
- 1) In line with the Cheshire East Council's Policy Decision of 2014, the results of the Second Winter Gritting Consultation, conducted in 2020 as a result of the call-in to the EROSC, is published on the Cheshire East Website, together with a full report that includes:
    - a) Who was invited to take part in the Consultation.
    - b) Who responded to the Consultation.
    - c) What documentation was provided to those selected to respond to the consultation.
    - d) How the information, presented by respondents, was evaluated by Cheshire East Highways to inform the current Winter Gritting and Adverse Weather Strategy.
  - 2) That as a result of the Consultation, Cheshire East Council publishes details of the well-maintained highways metrics used to determine which routes remained on the gritting schedules, but importantly, which

routes did not remain on the gritting schedule as a result of this consultation and its findings.'

[https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council\\_and\\_democracy/council\\_information/consultations/consultation-results/consultations\\_results.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/consultations/consultation-results/consultations_results.aspx)

## **7. Consultation and Engagement**

- 7.1.** As the approach to WMHI was developed, presentations were given to the EROSC on 18/06/18, 15/10/18, 15/07/19 and 21/01/20.

### **Initial Consultation**

- 7.2.** The new approach to winter service was consulted on through public consultation from 2nd July to 27th August 2018, along with proposals to revise the Council's approach to Highway Safety Inspections and the introduction of a Resilient Network.

- 7.3.** This initial consultation engaged:

Cheshire East Residents via the website and public libraries  
Elected Members  
Parish Councils  
The LEP  
Transport for the North  
Local Transport Operators  
Neighbouring Authorities (including Highways England)  
The Emergency Services  
Manchester Airport  
Network Rail  
HS2  
Local Bus Operators  
The Road Haulage Association  
Freight Transport Association  
Sustrans  
Local Cycling Groups  
NHS and Health Service Providers  
Cheshire East Council Internal Departments

- 7.4.** Presentations were also given to the former AHGs and some amendments were made to the treated routes as a result of this engagement.

- 7.5.** The consultation received 93 responses.

### **Further Streamline Consultation**

- 7.6.** Between 11th September 2020 and 20th November 2020 a further streamlined consultation was held.

- 7.7.** As part of the second consultation, information relating to the routes and methodology were added to a website for the consultees to review and provide feedback.
- 7.8.** The Consultees were:
- The former Area Highway Groups (AHGs)
  - All Schools
  - Community Groups (via AHGs)
  - The Town and Parish Councils within the Borough
  - Cycling Groups
  - Elected Members
  - Emergency Services
- 7.9.** These consultees are detailed on the Council's website:
- [https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways\\_and\\_roads/road-maintenance/well-managed-highway-infrastructure.aspx#:~:text=We%20consulted%20all,winter%20treatment%20network.](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways_and_roads/road-maintenance/well-managed-highway-infrastructure.aspx#:~:text=We%20consulted%20all,winter%20treatment%20network.)
- 7.10.** The identified consultees received an email containing a covering letter which requested their engagement with the consultation and a consultation response form. The letter contained links to:
- The Risk Assessment Methodology
  - The Winter and Adverse Weather Policy
  - The Winter and Adverse Weather Plan
  - Risk Assessment Scores for Roads Added
  - Risk Assessment Scores for Roads Removed
  - Risk Assessment Scores for Roads Retained
  - Maps of the proposed treated roads in each Area Highway Group area
- 7.11.** Presentations were also given to the AHGs via Teams (this method was used as a result of the pandemic). The AHGs were attended by elected members and town & parish councils. Traditionally not all town & parish councils attended AHGs, so in this instance each town & parish council was asked to provide one representative.
- 7.12.** We received 129 responses as detailed on the WMHI web page. A breakdown of the responses wasn't provided on the WMHI web page; however, they can be categorised into the below groups:

|                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| CEC ward members         | 29 |
| Town and parish councils | 41 |
| Schools                  | 15 |
| Cycling groups           | 2  |
| Emergency services       | 1  |

- 7.13.** Although not consulted directly, we also received 41 responses from members of the public. The vast majority of these were as a result of a local campaign. These responses were all considered as part of the consultation.
- 7.14.** The roads identified by the respondents were evaluated against the published methodology, taking into account any additional information provided.
- 7.15.** Following consideration of the consultation responses the winter treatment network was finalised and a letter was sent to the original consultees, the letter included a link to the WMHI webpage which was updated to contain a list of roads added following the further streamlined consultation and a set of updated maps highlighting the additions.
- 7.16.** The updated maps and the list of roads added following the consultation can be found via the below link:
- [https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways\\_and\\_roads/road-maintenance/well-managed-highway-infrastructure.aspx#:~:text=Winter%20treated%20roads,Wilmslow%20\(PDF%2C%202.7MB\)](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways_and_roads/road-maintenance/well-managed-highway-infrastructure.aspx#:~:text=Winter%20treated%20roads,Wilmslow%20(PDF%2C%202.7MB))
- 7.17.** As a result of the further streamline consultation an additional 43 road lengths were added to the treated network, none were removed.

## **8. Implications**

### **8.1. Legal**

- 8.1.1.** There are no legal consequences of this report.

### **8.2. Finance**

- 8.2.1.** Some staff time will be required to update the webpage. This will be covered through existing highway revenue budgets.

### **8.3. Policy**

- 8.3.1.** There are no policy implication as a result of this Notice of Motion.

### **8.4. Equality**

- 8.4.1.** There are no equality implications as a result of this Notice of Motion.

### **8.5. Human Resources**

8.5.1. There are no Human resource implications as a result of this Notice of Motion.

**8.6. Risk Management**

8.6.1. There are no risk management implications as a result of this Notice of Motion.

**8.7. Rural Communities**

8.7.1. There are no rural communities implications as a result of this Notice of Motion.

**8.8. Children and Young People/Cared for Children**

8.8.1. There are no Children and Young People/Cared for Children implications as a result of this Notice of Motion.

**8.9. Public Health**

8.9.1. There are no public health implications as a result of this Notice of Motion.

**8.10. Climate Change**

8.10.1. There are no climate change implications as a result of this Notice of Motion.

| <b>Access to Information</b> |   |
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| Contact Officer:             | Matthew Davenhill<br><a href="mailto:Matthew.davenhill@cheshireeast.gov.uk">Matthew.davenhill@cheshireeast.gov.uk</a><br>01260 371026   |
| Appendices:                  | N/A   |
| Background Papers:           | Well Managed Highway Infrastructure, Cabinet Paper of 04/02/20<br><a href="https://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/documents/s74342/Well-Managed%20Highway%20Infrastructure%20-%20report%20final.pdf">https://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/documents/s74342/Well-Managed%20Highway%20Infrastructure%20-%20report%20final.pdf</a><br><br>Well Managed Highways – Call In Response, Cabinet Paper of 05/05/20<br><a href="https://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/documents/s76270/Well-Managed%20Highways%20-%20report%20final.pdf">https://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/documents/s76270/Well-Managed%20Highways%20-%20report%20final.pdf</a> |

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|  | Appendix A – Notice to Motion |
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