

## HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

*Written responses to questions raised at the Committee meeting held on 26 January 2023.*

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### **Item 11: Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2023-27 Consultation**

***Q. Cllr Smetham queried the significant difference between criteria for street lighting in rural and urban areas.***

A. The street lighting in the borough is an historically evolved highway asset. Lighting of the highway is covered by Section 97 of the Highways Act 1980 and states that a highway authority may provide street lighting and where it does it is the responsibility of the highway authority, and it may alter or remove such assets. At the moment, the Council has a policy to not install more streetlights within Cheshire East. Any extra lighting installed will be as part of new developments, adjustments to the existing highway and projects funded by other sources.

New systems of street lighting on housing developments and new roads are installed in compliance with national standards, including the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, British Standard 5489 and local design guides.

The assessment of new street lighting takes into account a number of factors which include the speed limit, traffic count data, the standard of road, footfall, road usage, where the road falls in the hierarchy of the road system, amenity use, support of night-time economy in town centres etc. The same assessment process is applied to each location irrespective of whether it is in a rural or urban area.

***Q. Members queried when they would be sent copies of the High-Level Business Cases surrounding the proposals.***

A. High Level Business Cases have been published on the Council website and can be viewed [here](#).

### **Item 7: Highway Asset Management Policy, Plan and Strategies**

***Q. Cllr Crane wearied when the Inspection Code of Practice Policy (A-Boards) would be brought forward for consideration at Committee.***

A. The Council currently has a Policy called 'Clearway Forwards' that covers the placement of A boards on the highway, it is considered that this document requires a refresh. It is proposed to bring a scoping paper to the Highways and Transport Committee in July to outline the potential high-level principles of an updated approach to the policy and any potential consultation that may be required. It is anticipated that any consultation would be undertake in the Autumn with the view of bringing an updated policy to a future Highways and Transport Committee in early 2024.

### **Item 8: The Congleton Greenway – River Dane Bridge and Multi-user path**

***Q. Cllr Akers-Smith requested assurance that developer contributions that already exist and those that come forward in the future are ring-fenced for the project.***

A. As outlined in the report, there is a signed S106 agreement that contains a developer obligation to contribute to the Greenway (para 8.2.3). The triggers for payment have not yet been met, but they are likely to come forward as the development progresses. The funding is restricted to the development of the Bridge and associated paths. Future

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contributions would be more flexibly secured to ensure that they can be utilised both on the greenway, but also on other walking and cycling infrastructure in the locality of the permitted development.

## **Item 10: Highways and Infrastructure: Mid-Year Performance Review**

### ***Q. Councillor Holland queried progress on the installation of street lighting on the Congleton Link Road.***

A. The street lighting at the Dane Valley, A34 and Radnor roundabouts is currently being installed and is scheduled to be operational shortly. The lighting was originally due to be installed following completion of the nearby developments but was brought forward as a result of some unexpected driver behaviours since the road opening. The as built roundabout complies with all relevant design standards.

### ***Q. Cllr Naismith raised queries around technical faults with automated responses being sent from the Fix My Street online reporting tool.***

A. The Highway Service, monitors customer experience and seeks continuous improvements as part of its Customer Experience, Communications and Engagement Project Group, chaired by a member of the Highway Service Client team, Emma Wallace - Contract Performance and Customer Services Manager. This project's scope covers the following areas of customer experience within the Highway Service and also links into the Council's Brighter Future Together Customer Experience Programme:

- Demand Management
- Inspection and Asset Management
- Digital and IT changes
- Culture

The Contract Performance and Customer Services Manager role also involves the completion of monthly audits and the full visibility to all of the formal correspondence coming into the service. Both the audits and the customer feedback all help to identify good practice as well as recognising when things don't go well, and improvements are required, whether relating to a process or a system, including what information is available on Fix My Street.

Should you feel that an enquiry has not been dealt with correctly or some works on the ground have not gone to plan then please feel free to contact Mike Barnett – Head of Highways or Emma Wallace and we can investigate your concerns further.

## **Item 12: Work Programme**

### ***Q. Members requested an update on Crewe North-West Package and the closure of Middlewich Road and also Congleton Link-Road temporary 40mph restriction***

A: An All-Member Briefing on the Northwest Crewe Package was held on 31 January 2023. It was very well attended by councillors.

The temporary 40mph limit on a short section of the Congleton Link Road is to allow installation of the new street lighting at the Viking Way roundabout. It will be removed when the lighting becomes operational in the near future.