

CABINET – 13TH DECEMBER 2016**HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE POLICY AND STRATEGY REVIEW****COMMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE****DRAFT MINUTE EXTRACT**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment and Transport which:-

- i) outlined the outcome of consultation undertaken to support the review of the highway maintenance strategy and policy;
- ii) set out a draft Highways Asset Management Policy and a draft Highway Asset Strategy which have been developed having regard to the outcome of the consultation referred to in (i) above and which the Cabinet would be asked to agree for consultation.

A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 8' is filed with these minutes.

The Director of Environment and Transport in introducing the report highlighted the following points:-

- a) a review of the existing policy was necessary to deliver the savings required in the MTFS and to ensure that the County Council was aligned to the Government's new Code of Practice thereby being in a good position to secure maximum funding from the Government's Incentive Fund;
- b) the review would enable the Council to provide clarity on the standards of service that it would provide going forward.

In response to questions the Director advised members as follows:-

- i) the response rate had been limited and that although there was an engagement process with parish councils it was interesting to note that 61.5% of respondents from the public consultation were from urban areas;
- ii) that District Council and the Highway Forums would be consulted on the Policy and Strategy documents;
- iii) the revised strategy sets out how the County Council would seek to ensure that it can access funding from the Government's Incentive Fund and therefore it was not necessary to include this matter on the Corporate Risk

Register as the risks were recognised and being managed. The engagement of an external consultant to assist the Council in securing government funding was necessary as the Council did not have expertise in-house.

With regard to the possible introduction of a 'Lengthsmen Scheme' the Director advised that this would be done in discussion with those Parish Councils who had expressed an interest. There were a number of issues that needed to be addressed in terms of their scope and responsibilities, the training and support to be provided and on-going resilience recognising that the Scheme would be run by volunteers. In progressing such a Scheme the Council would seek to ensure it was cost neutral. Members were supportive of the Director working with interested Parishes to develop a pilot scheme.

RESOLVED

That comments made be forwarded to the Cabinet and that the Cabinet be advised that the Committee would support the draft Highways Asset Management Policy and draft Highways Asset Management Strategy being approved for consultation.