

Leicestershire County Council
Liberal Democrat Group



Cabinet – 23rd June 2017

Liberal Democrat Comments on Highway Asset Management

The outcomes predicted to occur as a result of this plan are highly concerning. I understand that the Council has little choice, given the continual shrinking of our budget, and I commend officers for their efforts to deploy these limited resources as effectively as possible, but despite this work the expected outcomes are shocking.

In Appendix B, on page 107, it reveals that the budget in 2020/21 will only 22% of the spending power that it had in 2009/10. Such a severe cut in resources is certain to impact on the quality of our roads, and sure enough we get some warnings of what to expect.

This report seems to have been toned down a little since the previous draft in December; which warned us about lost skills, a record number of potholes, and a lack of money to replace the Cavendish Bridge. It would be interesting to know why these changes have been made; was the previous report inaccurate in stating these things or is the administration being less forthcoming over the expected consequences of its decisions?

But even with a gloss of more optimistic wording, on Page 114 we are still warned of “increased deterioration”, that unclassified roads will “be particularly vulnerable to rapid failure” and in the case of such failure the Council would have to consider “temporary long term closures”.

While I understand the Cabinet has limited choice with the budget available to them, I hope they understand that the plan as it stands is in no way sustainable and would set us up for significant problems in the future.

I hope that the Lead Members will do everything they can to ensure the Government is aware what is happening, and what will continue to happen, if they continue to cut the resources of this Council.

Bill Boulter

Liberal Democrat Spokesman for Environment and Transport

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