

TITLE OF REPORT: **The Council's Approach to Roads and Highways –
Funding and Repairs**

REPORT OF: **Paul Dowling, Strategic Director, Communities and
Environment**

SUMMARY

This evidence session will provide a summary of the overall approach to transport funding. It will then go on to a more detailed examination of the current position in relation to duties relating to highway maintenance. The format of the session will be an initial presentation followed by an opportunity to ask questions and express views on the evidence presented.

Background

1. Vision 2030 sets out the 6 Big Ideas for Gateshead. Transport relates closely to the themes of “City of Gateshead”, “Sustainable Gateshead” and “Active and Healthy Gateshead”.
2. The Tyne and Wear Local Transport Plan, which sets out the transport policy framework for Gateshead, identifies three main challenges for the transport network:
 - Supporting economic development and regeneration;
 - Addressing climate change;
 - Supporting safe and sustainable communities.
3. Policy CS13 of the Gateshead/Newcastle Core Strategy seeks the enhancement and delivery of an integrated transport network to support sustainable development and economic growth through:
 - Promoting sustainable travel choices;
 - Improving the operation of the transport network and its wider connections;
 - Ensuring new development is located and designed to promote sustainable travel choices, minimise unnecessary car trips, and connect safely to the network.

Purpose of session

4. This evidence session is the first of four looking at the role of the Council and its partners in roads and highways. At the meeting on 19th June it was agreed this session would look at the matter of funding and repairs.
5. The format of the session will be an initial presentation followed by an opportunity to ask questions and express views on the evidence presented.

Council officers from the Development, Transport and Public Protection and Street Scene services will be in attendance to respond to any queries.

6. Key lines of enquiry to consider include:

- How available funding can be used to best effect given the various restrictions on its provision and use;
- How the Council can meet its statutory duties relating to highway maintenance in the face of continuing budget pressures.

Recommendations

7. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to

- provide their views on the evidence presented.

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