

TITLE OF REPORT: Communities And Place Overview and Scrutiny
Committee – roads and highways

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

Purpose of the Report

1. This report sets out the findings and recommendations of a review by Communities and Place and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) in relation to roads and highways.

Background

2. The Council agreed that the OSC should carry out a review of roads and highways. The scope and aims of the review were agreed by the committee at its meeting on 19th June 2017. The review focussed on four main areas:
 - funding and repairs;
 - traffic congestion;
 - enforcement;
 - road safety

Proposal

3. The report outlines the committee's findings following the review and sets out the following recommendations:
 - That the funding position for highway maintenance continues to be monitored, with further sessions for members arranged as appropriate
 - That options for closing the shortfall in highway maintenance funding continue to be investigated
 - That arrangements for keeping local members informed of highway repair and maintenance activity in their ward are reviewed to ensure action is prioritised in order of safety and importance.
 - That current policies aimed at reducing traffic growth and encouraging sustainable modes of transport are maintained
 - That the benefits of joint working between the Council and the Police in the areas of road safety and speed enforcement are recognised and opportunities are taken to improve the effectiveness and build on existing relationships. To this end the Chair of the Committee to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner to express the Committee's concerns about the impact the reduction of resources for speed enforcement has had on the safety of Gateshead's roads
 - That an update of progress against the actions identified is reported back to Committee on an annual basis.

Recommendations

4. It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (i) Notes the findings and analysis of evidence outlined in appendix 2.
- (ii) Agrees the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review as set out above and in Appendix 2.

For the following reasons:

- (i) To ensure the Council meets its statutory duties with regard to maintaining roads within Gateshead;
- (ii) To ensure the better management of the road network in support of wider Council and community objectives.

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APPENDIX 1

Policy Context

1. The proposals are in line with the vision for transport as outlined in the Gateshead Sustainable Community Strategy, Vision 2030 and support the pledges within Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives. They also support the Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan, the aims and objectives of the Tyne and Wear Local Transport Plan 3 and the Gateshead Highway Asset Management Plan.

Background

2. Local authorities are statutorily required to maintain the road network. In addition the network provides a crucial element in the economic and community life of Gateshead, underpinning activity of all kinds

Consultation

3. The process of the review has involved the presentation of evidence and research and an opportunity to involve relevant partners, notably the Police.

Alternative Options

4. The evidence gathering sessions enabled the consideration of options, with the final recommendations being those considered to be the most appropriate.

Implications of Recommended Option

5. **Resources:**
 - a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources confirms there are no financial implications arising directly from this report.
 - b) **Human Resources Implications** - The Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance confirms that there are no direct staffing implications arising from this report.
 - c) **Property Implications** - There are no property implications arising directly from this report.
6. **Risk Management Implication** - There are no risk management implications arising directly from this report.
7. **Equality and Diversity Implications**- There are no direct equality and diversity implications arising from this report.
8. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – the recommendation to promote co-operation with the Police will help in the detection of traffic related crime and disorder.
9. **Health Implications** – There are no direct health implications

10. **Sustainability Implications** - There are no direct sustainability implications arising directly as a result of this report.
11. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no direct human rights implications arising directly as a result of this report.
12. **Area and Ward Implications** - There are no direct area and ward implications arising directly as a result of this report.

Background Information

Communities and Place OSC reports:

19th June 2017

11th September 2017

7th November 2017

4th December 2017

29th January 2018

23rd April 2018

18th June 2018