

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
SUBJECT:	RESPONSE TO HIGHWAYS APPROACH TO ASSET MANAGEMENT INQUIRY
DATE OF DECISION:	6 JUNE 2011
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
None	

BRIEF SUMMARY

On 19th August 2010 the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) considered the final draft of Scrutiny Panel A 'Response To Highways Approach To Asset Management Inquiry' report and approved it for submission to the Executive. Their recommendations were received by Cabinet on 25th October 2010. The seven scrutiny inquiry recommendations and the Cabinet's response to them are set out in Appendix 1 of this report to meet the requirements in the Council's constitution.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) To approve the Cabinet's responses as set out in Appendix 1

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. As part of the Council's constitution the Executive need to consider all inquiry reports that have been endorsed by OSMC and formally respond to their recommendations.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. None

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

3. Scrutiny Panel A conducted the Highways Approach to Asset Management Inquiry over 2 meetings from June to July 2010. OSMC considered the final report on 20th May 2010 and approved it for submission to the Executive. The inquiry report was received by Cabinet on 25th October 2010 and this report sets out the formal response of the Executive to the seven recommendations.
4. The recommendations from the inquiry set out a number of proposals to:
 - Support a stronger strategic approach to the highways and transport network in Southampton,
 - Enhance communication and involvement of members and the business community in development of schemes and
 - Improve the quality and co-ordination of highways works, particularly in relation to utility companies.
5. The Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, has been nominated as the lead Cabinet Member to respond to the Scrutiny Inquiry recommendations.

6. The Highways Partnership Client and Transport and Sustainable Travel teams, have been consulted on their relevant recommendations, alongside the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, the Environment Director and Head of Policy and Performance (Environment).
7. Appendix 1 sets out the seven inquiry recommendations and responses proposed by the Cabinet Member, following consultation with officers and partners.
8. All of the recommendations have been fully accepted and are already being implemented or have been completed.
9. Responses to *Recommendations 4, 5, 6 and 7* relate to the Highways Partnership and thus responses are accepted in principle and on behalf of this partnership.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

10. No additional costs were identified during the course of the Inquiry. The recommendations from this Inquiry could all be progressed by re-focussing officer or partner's time and existing work programmes.

Property/Other

11. None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

12. The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. This report is presented in accordance with section 7.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules which requires the Executive to submit its response to inquiry recommendations.

Other Legal Implications:

13. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

14. The proposals contained within the appended report are in accordance with the Council's Policy Framework and, if implemented, the recommendations will support the delivery of priorities within the Local Transport Plan.

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KEY DECISION? Yes

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All wards would be affected by the Executive's implementation of the recommendations contained within the inquiry report.
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Non-confidential appendices are in the Members' Rooms and can be accessed on-line

Appendices

1	Response to Highways Approach to Asset Management Inquiry recommendations
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Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	Highways Approach to Asset Management Inquiry - full report
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Integrated Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to be carried out?	No
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Other Background Documents N/A

Integrated Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

1	None	
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