

## ITEM NO: 7

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CABINET		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	REPORT OF SCRUTINY PANEL A – HIGHWAYS APPROACH TO ASSET MANAGEMENT INQUIRY		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	25 OCTOBER 2010		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	CHAIR OF SCRUTINY PANEL A		
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<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>			
None			

### SUMMARY

From June to July 2010 Scrutiny Panel A undertook an inquiry into Highways Approach to Asset Management. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) considered the final draft of the inquiry report on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2010 and approved it for submission to the Executive. The scrutiny inquiry report contains seven recommendations which are shown in Appendix 1. The Cabinet needs to formally respond to these recommendations to meet the requirements in the Council's Constitution.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) To receive the attached Highway's Approach to Asset Management Inquiry report from Scrutiny Panel A to enable the Executive to formulate its response to the recommendations contained within it, in order to comply with the requirements set out in the Council's Constitution.

### REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Overview and Scrutiny procedure rules in part 4 of the Council's Constitution requires the Executive to consider all inquiry reports that have been endorsed by OSMC and to submit a formal response to the recommendations contained within them.

### CONSULTATION

2. The inquiry report, attached at Appendix 2, has been consulted with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, the Environment Director, Head of Policy and Performance (Environment) Highways and Planning services and the Highways Partnership Manager relating to the recommendations therein.

### ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

3. None.

### DETAIL

4. On 20<sup>th</sup> May 2010 OSMC agreed the indicative terms of reference for an inquiry into the Highways Service Approach to Asset Management. Scrutiny Panel A conducted the inquiry over 2 meetings from June to July 2010.

5. At the first meeting of the inquiry the panel discussed the council's approach to asset management through the Transport Asset Management Plan and how the service prioritises its work programme for the coming year based on an agreed set of weighted priorities. The national context of the state of the Council's assets was also considered.
6. The second meeting was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport who highlighted key issues and improvements within the Highway Service, and the way forward with the Highways Service Partnership with Balfour Beatty. In addition, there was also an outline of the approach to consultation and keeping the public and other interested parties informed of the council's policies and the annual programme of works.
7. The inquiry's seven recommendations, summarised in Appendix 1, emanated from the discussions identified above.
8. OSMC considered Scrutiny Panel A's final report, attached at Appendix 2, at its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2010. It agreed that the panel had met its terms of reference for the review and that the report should be presented to the Executive to enable a response to its recommendations.
9. Three of the recommendations require actions from Southampton City Council services within the Environment Directorate, including Planning Transport and the Highways Service Partnership Client Team. The remaining four recommendations will be worked on jointly within the Highways Partnership.
10. All Council Services and the Highways Partnership have been informed of their relevant recommendations and a formal response has been requested.
11. The Executive should consider Scrutiny Panel A's recommendations and formally respond to this report in order to meet the requirements set out in the Council's Constitution.

## **FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

12. The recommendations from this inquiry could all be progressed by re-focussing Council officer or partner's time and existing work programmes.

### **Capital**

13. No additional capital costs were identified during the course of the inquiry.

### **Revenue**

14. It will be for the Executive and Highways Partnership to identify whether they can take forward any of the recommendations from the inquiry, outlined in Appendix 1. Precise revenue implications will depend on how the individual recommendations are implemented.

### **Property**

15. The recommendations within this report have the potential to realise improvements to the City's highways assets. However, the extent and precise nature of these improvements cannot be directly identified as they depend on how these recommendations are taken forward and are intrinsically linked to other highways asset management strategic decisions.

## Other

16. None.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:**

17. The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Government and 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 the inquiry recommendations.

### **Other Legal Implications:**

18. None.

## **POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

19. The proposals contained within the appended report are in accordance with the Council's Policy Framework and, if implemented, the recommendations will help deliver many of the objectives within the Local Transport Plan.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

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

### **Appendices**

1.	Highways Approach To Asset Management Inquiry – Summary of Recommendations
2.	Highways Approach To Asset Management Inquiry full report

### **Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	None.
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### **Background Documents**

1.	None
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**Background documents available for inspection at:** N/A

**FORWARD PLAN No:** N/A                      **KEY DECISION?** No

<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	All wards would be affected by the Executive's implementation of the recommendations contained within the inquiry report
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