Response to Highways Approach to Asset Management Inquiry

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	Accepted by the Executive	Lead SCC Division or partnership	How will the recommendation be achieved?	Timescale
Recommendation 1: The Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, in conjunction with the chair of Scrutiny Panel A and with cross-party support, to write to the Secretary of State to highlight the inadequate funding available for maintaining the Western Approach infrastructure asking them to propose a way forward. Should additional funding not be available, their view should be sought on taking the road into Government control.	Yes	Planning, Transport	A letter has been sent to the Department for Transport. No formal response has been received to date, although indications are that they are unlikely to support this proposal. Any change to the status of the road would require a formal Cabinet decision in due course.	April 2011
Recommendation 2: Highways Service Partnership client team to ensure that members have an opportunity to influence the annual plan and that the priorities are reviewed annually with Members whilst also considering alternatives that will focus on clearer, more specific and non-political outcomes.	Yes	HSP Client team	Transport Asset Management Plan being developed further by BBW will provide long term maintenance priority for the City's roads. Annual Plan will therefore be based on this and will be available earlier. LTP3 sets Transport Policy priorities and also sets out delivery plans.	Annually

Recommendation 3: SCC Planning to ensure that members are actively engaged in influencing the emerging Local Transport Plan to ensure a long-term vision for the city.	Yes	Planning, Transport	LTP3 now adopted by Council following extensive consultation including member briefing sessions. The Transport Policy Team were commended for their thorough cross party engagement with Members on the development of this document	March 2011
Recommendation 4: Balfour Beatty Workplace (BBW) to communicate effectively with the business community and residents on overall Highways investment and specific schemes through the Chamber of Commerce and other local / neighbourhood forums.	Yes	Highways Partnership	BBW are developing communication strategy covering consultation on each years capital programme. Web pages are being developed to provide additional information on individual projects. BBW are engaging with Chamber of Commerce and Local Neighbourhood forums.	Ongoing
Recommendation 5: The Highways Service Partnership to work closely together to continue to develop mechanisms that ensure that ward members are consulted and kept informed of major schemes across the city and those in their wards.	Yes	Highways Partnership	BBW are developing web based information on each years capital programme. This will include Ward information for each proposed project.	Ongoing

Recommendation 6: Balfour Beatty to develop an approach with utilities to encourage greater coordination with works planned in the year, to drive up quality of finished works and effectively communicate the reasons for delay more widely.	Yes	Highways Partnership	BBW and SCC have recently signed a City Centre voluntary Code of Practise with ALL utility companies to improve permanent reinstatements. Relationships with Utilities are improving and better communications are in place.	Ongoing
Recommendation 7: Balfour Beatty to ensure that the reinstatement standards for utility companies meet the regulated national specification and that any failures to comply are dealt with firmly in line with legislation.	Yes	Highways Partnership	BBW are following national reinstatement standards for inspections and regulation of permanent and temporary repairs.	Ongoing