

## ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2018.

Present: Councillor M. Lloyd (Vice-Chairman in the Chair); Councillors: Mrs. P. Drake, V.P. Driscoll, S.T. Edwards, G. John, N. Moore, Ms. S. Sivagnanam and S.T. Wiliam.

Also present: Councillors L. Burnett, N.P. Hodges, P.G. King, K.P. Mahoney and Mrs. S.D. Perkes.

167 HIGHWAY RESURFACING 3 YEAR PLAN 2018 - 2021 (REF) -

The Head of Service for Neighbourhood Services and Transport commenced by advising that the report had been referred by Cabinet on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2018 for the Committee's consideration. Accompanying the Head of Service was the Team Leader. Cabinet had been advised of the Highway Maintenance 3 Year Resurfacing Plan and agreement was sought for the priority locations for resurfacing works as detailed within the Plan.

The report highlighted that the local highway network within the Vale of Glamorgan was a valuable asset to the community for which the Council was responsible. The way it was managed and maintained had a direct impact on residents, businesses and visitors who used it on a daily basis

A letter was sent to all Town and Community Councils in March 2018 by the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport advising that the Council had set aside a sum of £2.436m for highways resurfacing for the 2018/19 financial year.

The main purpose of the letter was to ensure that more minor highway routes within local areas were given consideration, where the local community felt such routes to be of 'local importance'. The letter offered the Town and Community Councils an opportunity to input into the review of this year's Highway Maintenance 3 Year Resurfacing Plan by using their local knowledge to submit up to three routes which they considered to be high priority within their ward area no later than 20th April, 2018. The letter advised that the Council would then assess each route to establish its priority on the Highway Maintenance 3 Year Resurfacing Plan and submit it to Cabinet for future consideration.

The proposed Highway Maintenance 3 Year Resurfacing Plan was attached at Appendix A and identified carriageways requiring treatment to prevent further surface and structural deterioration. The roads and routes included certain routes suggested by the Town and Community Councils that responded to the above letter as well as other priority roads identified by the Council's Highway Engineers as requiring treatment. The roads and routes suggested by Town and Community Councils were listed in Appendix C. The carriageways of all the roads and routes

listed within the Plan for resurfacing had been assessed in accordance with the 'Carriageway Resurfacing Prioritisation Scoring System' which was attached at Appendix B.

The 'Carriageway Resurfacing Prioritisation Scoring System' identified several criteria and data factors which enabled a score to be derived and the prioritised 3 Year Plan for resurfacing to be established. Resurfacing works were costly and this form of treatment generally related to major and heavily trafficked routes. Roads that would receive surfacing works this financial year would be selected from the prioritised resurfacing list. Cabinet noted that the roads on the resurfacing list scoring the highest from top to bottom on the Plan would generally be completed first, however, the comments column identified any specific constraints that needed to be considered to progress works safely and adequately along specific roads. In certain cases, where these constraints related to conflict with other schemes, works required to utility services or drainage issues may mean the resurfacing of these roads needed to be delayed or postponed.

Delivery of the Plan was subject to the appropriate funding provided this financial year. All routes listed on the Plan would benefit from the treatments indicated, however, there was insufficient funding available to complete all the routes indicated on the Plan. As such and to maximise the benefit to the highway asset of the low cost preventative treatments, it was proposed to undertake all works on the micro asphalt and surface dressing lists this financial year. This work was estimated to cost £750k to £1m subject to final costs under the specific contracts currently being retendered for this specialist work.

As a result of Welsh Government funding of £1.136m which was made available in 2017/18, the Council had been able to use that sum to supplement the funding available this year to fund highway resurfacing works.

The funding available from the Council's own Capital budgets to deliver this year's programme of resurfacing works amounted to £1.3m which included an additional £500k for Additional Highways Resurfacing and Maintenance as well as £500k awarded as part of a Capital bid for resurfacing.

The resurfacing programme would be managed and supervised by existing staff resources within the Neighbourhood Services and Transport Section.

The Head of Service advised that delivery of the Plan was subject to funding and that the programme did not run in any priority order, it was just reported as alphabetical A-Z.

In considering the report, a Member stated that they were pleased with the more open approach that appeared to be used as outlined in Appendix A, and pleased that the comments he had made the previous year had been taken on board. The member also felt the plan was also much clearer now for Members and the public to understand. However, in referring to the decision in relation to how each road was scored, he requested that in the future the plan showed areas in

priority order. The Member also queried the fact that some roads had scored a high rating in the previous year as well as the current year, and questioned why the work had not been undertaken. In referring to the fact that for the current year the department had received additional monies for pothole work, the Head of Service advised that some of the roads that had not been undertaken the previous year were due to insufficient funds at the time plus if another road was subsequently identified as having a higher score, it was noted that that would be done in the first instance.

Following a query regarding roads near Nash Manor, the Head of Service advised that although the list identified the road as a score of 300, there was no date yet as to when this work would be undertaken, but reassured the Member that she would let them know when it was to be done.

A Dinas Powys Member asked for an update on the Cross Common bridge demolition with the Head of Service responding that she would report back to the Member with an update.

Concern was expressed regarding the serious risk of escalating claims for accidents and what investment was being made available. The Head of Service stated that additional monies for potholes had been received. There was also a pavement programme and information on the funding for this would be provided to all Members.

Councillor Burnett, not a Member of the Committee but with permission to speak, advised that she was really pleased as to how much clearer the grid was but queried the process for adding roads to the list. Councillor Burnett had also noted that Town and Community Councils had been consulted in the current year and queried why one Ward in particular had been specifically referenced in the document. In response, the Head of Service stated that following discussions with Town and Community Councils, they had each been requested to put forward three roads that required resurfacing as a risk based assessment needed to be evidenced. The fact that Illtyd Ward Members had been placed on the list was due to the fact that Barry Town Council had not submitted any suggestions. Members stated that all Members no doubt had issues in their Wards and raised them with officers and recognising one Ward in particular was misleading

In referring to verges and the use of weed killers, a Member stated that in their view, the current strength of the weed killer being used did not appear to be strong enough, and also asked the officer to keep an eye on its contractors as he was convinced they were actually undertaking the work as they should. The Head of Service referred to a Scrutiny presentation that had been provided by Adam Sargent, Neighbourhood Manager prior to the last Local Government election, which had identified what weed killer the Council was using and highlighting that it had to be environmentally friendly. The Head of Service agreed to forward the presentation to Members of the Committee for their information.

---

Councillor King, not a Member of the Committee but with permission to speak, referred to the fact that the current scoring method seemed to be more open and transparent. There were always opportunities to identify roads requiring resurfacing, but he also agreed that the priority order needed to be addressed as the funds were limited.

Two Committee Members referred to having obtained photographs of work where it appeared the Council had used contractors to perform tasks which had not appeared to have been undertaken and agreed to forward the photographs to Head of Service for investigation.

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport, with permission to speak, also informed the Committee that there were restrictions on the use of types of weed killer and that the officer had been very specific and detailed in the presentation that had been provided to Members some time previous. Following a comment from a Barry Town Council that the Cabinet Member had not attended a Barry Town Council meeting when invited to do so to discuss the issue of potholes, the Cabinet Member stated that he did not want to rehash the argument of identifying three streets in the area, but would be more than pleased to attend a Barry Town Council meeting and asked that the invitation be forwarded to him direct.

Having considered the report it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED - T H A T the report be noted with the suggestion that the list be amended in the future from alphabetical to priority.

Reason for recommendation

In order to provide further information to Members of the Council and members of the public.

---