

Scoping report on the review of road and street works taking place in the city

SUMMARY

- 1.1 In October 2013 Derby City Council became the first local authority in the East Midlands, and one of only a few across the country, to be given powers to operate a Road- works Permit Scheme. This scheme aims to minimise congestion and delays to road users and reduce the adverse impact of road-works on the city's busiest roads.
- 1.2 The Council, as the highways authority, and the various utilities companies, carry out a large number of works on city roads and streets. These works far exceed those covered within the permit scheme and are carried out by giving appropriate notice to the Council. It is proposed that the Neighbourhoods Board will conduct a review of the road works taking place across the city and look at how the Council fulfils its responsibility of co-ordinating and managing the works. The review will look at measures which:
- minimise disruption for residents, road users and businesses
 - reduce duplication of works by various agencies
 - ensure road surfaces are left in a good quality state on completion of the works
 - establish a code of conduct for works that can be signed up to by all parties

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To consider and agree the draft scoping report on the review of road works taking place in the city.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The board seeks to conduct a topic review and assess the current policies and procedures, to improve the quality of road works in the city and minimise disruptions for residents, road users and businesses.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Local highway authorities are responsible for co-ordinating road works on non-strategic roads. Good co-ordination and management of road works benefit residents, road users and the local economy, through reduced disruptions and better use of resources.
- 4.2 The Neighbourhoods Board review of road works may consider:
- Number of road works taking place at any one time on city streets?
 - Who is carrying out work on the streets and why? eg which utility companies and why? is it planned work or urgent work?
 - On planned works, on average how much notice is given before commencement of work?
 - What role do Councillors play in the process and how are they informed about works?
 - How are road works taking place in the city co-ordinated?
 - What are the minimum reinstatement standards and how are these monitored?
 - What enforcement powers are used if the works are not up to standard?
 - Aims and effectiveness of the Road- works Permit Scheme
- 4.3 Evidence to the review may be sought from the following individuals and organisations:
- Cabinet Member, Neighbourhoods and Streetpride, to provide a political perspective on highway maintenance and the Road- works Permit Scheme
 - Senior council officers including the Head of Traffic and Transportation, Head of Highways and Engineering, Network Management Group Manager and the Area Manager Highways, to explain how roads are co-ordinated by the council, how the Road- works Permit Scheme operates, and the workings of the inspection and enforcement processes
 - Research Engineer, studying for an Engineering Doctorate at Loughborough University (sponsored by the City Council) to explain the framework for co-ordination with utility companies and how the street works pledge adopted by some local authorities can be applied in Derby
 - Representatives from utility companies, to give their perspective on the permit scheme and works processes used in the city
 - Visit to a relevant scheme
- 4.4 It is proposed to hold evidence gathering meetings in weeks beginning 17 March and/or 24 March depending on member and witness availabilities.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 None

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	N/A
Financial officer	N/A
Human Resources officer	N/A
Service Director(s)	Tim Clegg - Director of Partnerships and Streetpride

Other(s)	Phil O'Brien – Head of Democratic Services
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For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	M Hussain 01332 643647 e-mail: mahroof.hussain@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications
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Appendix 1

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 None arising from this report

Legal

- 2.1 None arising from this report.

Personnel

- 3.1 None arising from this report.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 None arising from this report.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None arising from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 None arising from this report

Asset Management

- 7.1 None arising from this report.

Risk Management

- 8.1 None arising from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

9.1 Our aim is to work together so that Derby people have an inspiring place to live.