

ITEM 11a



PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION 24 SEPTEMBER 2007

Report of the Director of Corporate and Adult Services

Draft Scoping Report – review of Carriageway and Footway Maintenance

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Commission is asked to consider the draft scoping report and questionnaires and confirm whether it is wished to proceed with the proposed review.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 At its meeting on 11 June 2007 the Planning and Transportation Commission considered a number of possible work plan options and selected highway maintenance as the subject of one of its reviews in 2007/08.
- 2.2 A meeting to explore how the Commission might best undertake a review of highway maintenance was held on 28 June 2007 and was attended by Christine Durrant, Assistant Director - Highways and Transport, John Hansed - Head of Street Care, the Chair and Vice Chair, and the Co-ordination Officer. A number of issues were considered at the meeting but after discussion it was agreed that there were two particular areas in which it was thought that a review by the Commission could add value and might provide information that would be of particular use to the Regeneration and Community Department. These areas were:
 - The funding of highway maintenance by local authorities
 - The Derby public's perception of the state of our roads and the highway maintenance carried out by the City Council.
- 2.3 It is proposed that the primary objectives of the review should be:
 1. To compare the approach taken to highway maintenance by Derby with that of similar local authorities and to identify any examples of best practice that could be adopted by the City Council.

2. To find out how other similar local authorities obtain funding for highway maintenance and how they allocate the expenditure of that funding
 3. To ascertain the Derby public's perception of the highway maintenance that the City Council does and to obtain their views on what they think the Council might/should do.
- 2.4 The review will involve two questionnaire surveys, one of comparable unitary local authorities and the other of Derby residents. It is also intended to invite relevant witnesses to give evidence to the Commission.
- 2.5 A draft scoping report for the proposed review is contained in Appendix 2 of this report. Appendices 3 and 4 contain the questionnaire surveys it is proposed to send to the comparable unitary authorities and to Derby residents.

For more information contact:	David Romaine 01332 255598 e-mail david.romaine@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	Appendix 1 – Implications
List of appendices:	Appendix 2 – Draft scoping report
	Appendix 3 – Draft questionnaire to comparable unitary authorities
	Appendix 4 – Draft questionnaire to Derby residents

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None arising from this report. There will be costs associated with conducting the review and these will have to be contained within the Commission's research budget.

Legal

2. None arising from this report.

Personnel

3. None arising from this report.

Equalities impact

4. Carriageway and footway maintenance affects all Derby people

Corporate Objectives

5. This report has the potential to link with the following Corporate Objectives,
 - Making us proud of our neighbourhoods
 - Creating a 21st Century City Centre
 - Leading Derby towards a better environment
 - Giving you excellent services and value for money

Draft Scoping Report

Highway Maintenance Review

1. Background to the review

At its meeting on 11 June 2007 the Planning and Transportation Commission considered a number of possible work plan options and selected highway maintenance as the subject of its first review of 2007/08.

A meeting to explore how the Commission might best undertake a review of highway maintenance was held on 28 June 2007 and was attended by Christine Durrant, Assistant Director - Highways and Transport, John Hansed - Head of Street Care, the Chair and Vice Chair, and the Co-ordination Officer. A number of issues were considered at the meeting but after discussion it was agreed that there were two particular areas in which it was thought that a review by the Commission could add value and might provide information that would be of particular use to the Regeneration and Community Department. These areas were:

- The funding of highway maintenance by local authorities
- The Derby public's perception of the state of our roads and the highway maintenance carried out by the City Council.

It was therefore proposed to conduct a review to investigate:

1. The ways in which other local authorities fund highway maintenance, the way in which they split their expenditure between planned maintenance and responsive repairs to deal with defects, and their comparative performance in respect of the relevant BVPIs.
2. The public perception of the highway maintenance we do in Derby and of the 'safe but scruffy' outcome resulting from our intervention policy.

This draft scoping report sets out proposals for a review to examine these particular aspects of highway maintenance.

2. Objectives of the Review

It is proposed that the primary objectives of the review should be:

4. To compare the approach taken to highway maintenance by Derby with that of similar local authorities and to identify any examples of best practice that could be adopted by the City Council.
5. To find out how other similar local authorities obtain funding for highway maintenance and how they allocate the expenditure of that funding

6. To ascertain the Derby public's perception of the highway maintenance that the City Council does and to obtain their views on what they think the Council might/should do.

3. Suggested Methodology and Costs of the Review

To achieve the objectives set out above, this review will need to include a large element of consultation.

For the first part of the review it is proposed to undertake the consultation through a questionnaire survey of comparable Unitary local authorities and if appropriate to follow this up by interviews with representatives of local authorities selected from the respondents to the questionnaire. The content of the questionnaire has been discussed with the Council's consultation team and a draft questionnaire is contained in Appendix 1. If the survey is confined to selected, comparable, English Unitary authorities, it is thought that the results of the questionnaire can be analysed in house by the Co-ordination officers

The outcomes of the questionnaire survey will be compared with the information previously provided by the Council's Regeneration and Community officers at the scene setting meeting scheduled for early October 2007.

It was originally proposed to use Pointer Panel focus groups to obtain the views of the Derby public on highway maintenance but this will be relatively expensive (approx £3400 for one half day session) and there is no guarantee that the focus panel members who are selected will turn up for a session.

As a more financially viable alternative it is proposed instead to send a further questionnaire to 500 Derby Pointer Panel members and to employ a temporary data inputter to input the results of this questionnaire into the Council's SMS system. This will generate a report based on the questions, and it would be possible to follow this up with selected interviews of respondents if this is thought necessary. The cost of this option will be the mailing costs for the questionnaire plus the cost of employing the data inputter. Together these costs should not exceed £1000.

The information from the Pointer Panel questionnaire (Appendix 2) will be an important indicator of public's perception of the service provided by the Council.

From the provisional timetable it will be seen that it is proposed to conduct the Unitary authorities questionnaire survey in October/November 2007 and the Pointer Panel questionnaire in early to mid November. Any interviews needed for the review have been scheduled for mid to late November. These timings have to some extent been dictated by the other work commitments of the Co-ordination Officers but will also help spread the work load of the review for Commission members.

4. Provisional Timetable for the Review

1.	Preparation of draft Scoping Report and discussion of questionnaire survey and Pointer Panel focus groups	July/August 2007
2	Draft scoping report and questionnaire survey to be considered at the September Planning and Transportation Commission meeting	24 September 2007
3.	Scene setting meeting for the Commission at which Regeneration and Community officers will be asked about the Council's current approach to highway maintenance and the sources of funding for this work	Early – mid October 2007
4.	Issue of Unitary Authorities questionnaire survey – to be returned by early November	Mid October 2007
5.	Issue of the Pointer Panel questionnaire – to be returned by late November	Early November 2007
6.	Evidence gathering interviews between the Commission, selected respondents and other relevant witnesses	Mid-late November 2007
7.	Preparation of draft report	December 2007
8.	Draft report for consideration by the Commission	21 January 2008
9.	Final report to Cabinet Member meeting for Planning and Transportation	4 February 2008

5. Anticipated Outcomes of the Review

The anticipated outcomes of the review will be:

- Two reports, one based on the information from the Unitary Authorities questionnaire and the other on the Pointer Panel questionnaire. These are expected to provide:
 - Information about the methods used by other local authorities to obtain funding for highway maintenance and the sources of that funding.
 - Information on the experiences of local authorities that have used other sources of funding such as PFI and Prudential Borrowing to finance highway maintenance.
 - A comparison of the quality/cost of highway maintenance in Derby with that of similar local authorities
 - A comparison of Derby's highway maintenance BVPIs with those of other similar local authorities
 - Any examples of best practice on highway maintenance identified from the questionnaire survey, and any consequent options for improving on what is done in Derby
 - Some representative views of the Derby public on the current standard of highway maintenance and on what might be done to improve it.

The Regeneration and Community Officers have advised that this information will be helpful to them in preparing the Council's Highways Asset Management Plan. It is also considered that evidence gathered in the course of the review may enable the Commission to make recommendations for improving the way in which the Council funds and carries out highway and footway maintenance in the City.

DRR 23 July 2007.



Local Authority Highway Maintenance Questionnaire

Helpful hints for completing this questionnaire

- Please read each question and tick the right box to show your answer and, if asked to, write in your comments in the space provided.
- If you have any queries about the questionnaire, please contact David Romaine on 01332 255599 or e-mail david.romaine@derby.gov.uk.
- Once you have completed the questionnaire, please email it to david.romaine@derby.gov.uk by **?? 2007** or by post to Director of Corporate Services, Derby City Council, FREEPOST, MID24259, Derby, DE1 2BR. You don't need a stamp to return it.

1. What is the approximate population of your local authority?

2. Approximately how many **kilometres** of carriageway and footway is your local authority responsible for?

Number of kilometres?

Principal roads

Non-principal classified roads

Unclassified roads

Footways

3. Do you use any of the following funding sources to finance your carriageway and footway maintenance? Tick **all** that apply.

	Footway	Carriageway
Council revenues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Transport Plan monies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prudential borrowing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Private Finance Initiative agreement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other sources, please write in	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. What was the approximate value of the funding you received from each of the following sources in **2006/07**?

	Funding value?
Council revenues?	£ <input type="text"/>
Local Transport Plan monies?	£ <input type="text"/>
Prudential borrowing?	£ <input type="text"/>
Private Finance Initiative agreement?	£ <input type="text"/>
Other sources, please write in amount and explain below	£ <input type="text"/>

5. What are your **intervention levels** for the following ...

5a. Carriageway maintenance?

5b. Footway maintenance?

6. What was your approximate total **2006/07** budget – excluding budget for structures, street lighting, winter maintenance and amenity maintenance, for ...?

Total budget?

Planned carriageway maintenance including surface dressing and prepatching?

£

¹

Routine carriageway maintenance?

£

²

Planned footway maintenance including slurry sealing or similar low cost treatments?

£

³

Routine footway maintenance?

£

⁴

7. How was your **2006/07** expenditure split between ...

Planned schemes

£

¹

Patching to make safe

£

²

8. What was your Council's **2006/07** performance score for ...

2006/07 performance
score?

BV187 – condition of footways?

% ¹

BV223 - % of Principal Roads where maintenance
should be considered?

% ²

BV224a - % of Non-principal Classified roads where
Maintenance should be considered?

% ³

BV224b - % of Unclassified roads where maintenance
should be considered?

% ⁴

9. What was the approximate total cost to your Council in **2006/07** of
payments and settlements arising from claims relating to carriageway
and footway defects?

£

10. Have you carried out any consultation to find out the public's
perception of the state of
the carriageways and footways in your Council's area?

Yes ☐ ₁ No ☐ ₂

11. If you ticked 'yes' to Q10, briefly explain what the public's perceptions
were

12. Please fill in your contact details. We will use this information to contact you if we need to discuss your responses in more detail.


Name:

Job title:

Council:

Phone
number:

E-mail:

 **We will treat all the information you provide in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. We will use the survey results to inform our Highway Maintenance Topic Review.**

Thank you for your time and help.



Highway Maintenance Questionnaire

Helpful hints for completing this questionnaire

- Please read each question and tick the right box to show your answer and, if asked to, write in your comments in the space provided.
- If you have any queries about the questionnaire, please contact David Romaine on 01332 255599 or e-mail david.romaine@derby.gov.uk.
- Once you have completed the questionnaire, please put it in the envelope provided and return it to David Romaine, Scrutiny and Complaints Manager, Derby City Council, FREEPOST, MID24259, Derby, DE1 2BR by **???? 2007**. You don't need a stamp to return it.

1. How do you usually travel around Derby? Please tick **all** that apply

Walk	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Car	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Motorcycle or scooter	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Bicycle	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
Taxi	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Bus	<input type="checkbox"/>	6

2. How do you rate the following ...? Tick **one** box only for each statement

	Very good	Good	Neither good or poor	Poor	Very poor
a. Roads in the vicinity of your house?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Roads in the rest of Derby?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. The Council's road maintenance standards ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Footways in the vicinity of your house?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Footways in the rest of Derby?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

f. The Council's footway
maintenance standards?

☐ 1☐ 2☐ 3☐ 4☐ 5

3. What do you think the Council should do to improve the road and footway
maintenance in
Derby?

**We want to make sure that we hear everyone's views whatever your age or background,
so please answer the next few questions about you.**

4. What was your age on your last birthday? Please write in.

5. Are you registered as disabled? Tick **one** box only

Yes ☐ ₁


No ☐ ₂

6. Do you use a mobility scooter? Tick **one** box only

Yes ☐ ₁

No ☐ ₂

7. Please write in your postcode.

 **All information provided will be treated in confidence, in accordance
with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the results will be used to inform
the Highways Maintenance Topic Review.**

Thank you for your time and help.