

Supporting Information and Impact Assessment

Service / Policy:	Highways Management
Executive Lead:	Cllr Robert Excell
Director / Assistant Director:	Fran Hughes

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Section 1: Background Information	
1.	<p>What is the proposal / issue?</p> <p>This proposal is to reduce the Highways Management budget by £331k in 2016/17:</p> <p>A proportion of this saving can be found from a redesign of the service including; profiling highways maintenance budgets to utilise capital rather than revenue spend.</p> <p>This proposal will also further reduce the maintenance of the Highways network to a largely “reactive” service and will reduce the amount we can invest in improving roads and associated footways etc.</p>
2.	<p>What is the current situation?</p> <p>The current Highways Management Budget is £4.2Million and provides for the provision of a Highways Management Service including Highways Maintenance, Network Management, Emergency Responses, Winter Maintenance and Street Lighting.</p> <p>It should be noted the current highway asset condition is deteriorating. A further reduction in investment may accelerate this deterioration resulting in increased reactive maintenance costs and compensation claims to the authority in the future.</p>
3.	<p>What options have been considered?</p> <p>To achieve the savings required the following is proposed;:</p>

	<p>(a) Reduction in Highways Maintenance budgets and the increased use of Structural Maintenance capital funding for smaller scale works.</p> <p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the reactive repair works and preventative maintenance. <p>Disadvantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces the larger scale resurfacing works resulting in the service becoming more reactive in its approach to maintenance. • Reduces the investment into the highway network resulting in an acceleration of the deterioration of the highway condition and an increase in highway defects. <p>(b) Further redesign of the highways service may also be required.</p>
4.	<p>How does this proposal support the ambitions and principles of the Corporate Plan 2015-19?</p> <p>Principle - Using limited resources to best effect.</p>
5.	<p>Who will be affected by this proposal and who do you need to consult with?</p> <p>All users of the public highway will be affected.</p>
6.	<p>How will you propose to consult?</p> <p>Consultation has been carried out as part of the budget setting process – an online and paper questionnaire was produced providing people with the opportunity to have their say regarding this proposal.</p>

Section 2: Implications and Impact Assessment	
7.	<p>What are the financial and legal implications?</p> <p>Torbay Council, as Highway Authority, has a statutory duty to maintain the highway in a safe condition.</p>

8.	<p>What are the risks?</p> <p>There is a risk that the overall condition of the highway may deteriorate.</p> <p>The Council could potentially see an increase in third party claims caused by highways defects which will be an additional cost to the council, and may affect future insurance premiums.</p>
9.	<p>Public Services Value (Social Value) Act 2012</p> <p>No direct implication from this proposal</p>
10.	<p>What evidence / data / research have you gathered in relation to this proposal?</p> <p>This proposal has been developed using the professional knowledge of the current management team and knowledge of the legislative requirements and statutory duties which Torbay has to achieve as a Highways Authority.</p>
11.	<p>What are key findings from the consultation you have carried out?</p> <p>Public consultation on the budget proposals started on 6th November 2015 and closed on the 4th January 2016. The proposals were communicated to the Torbay community via local newspaper (Herald Express & Western Morning News), local radio, Twitter and Facebook and were detailed on the Torbay Council website. Emails were sent to key stakeholders and a range of opportunities were provided for people to contribute to the consultation, including a Budget Event held in Paignton. People were also able to send representations via email and post to Torbay Council.</p> <p>Responses for this proposal were as follows:</p> <p>Q) Highways Management: To reduce the overall amount of funding for highways maintenance, this will reduce the amount we can invest in improving roads and associated footways etc.</p> <p>This proposal is expected to save £331,000.</p>

This proposal will reduce the maintenance of the highway network to a largely reactive service which may contribute to further deterioration of the highway network over time.

Do you support this proposal?	Number	Percent
Yes	134	18.9%
No	554	77.9%
No answer	23	3.2%
Total	711	100%

12. Amendments to Proposal / Mitigating Actions

The overall consultation was not in favour of this proposal. However, in order to achieve the budget saving target to the revenue budget then the options proposed are currently the only way of achieving this level of saving.

Equality Impacts

13	Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups		
	Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
Older or younger people		No differential impact	
People with caring Responsibilities		No differential impact	
People with a disability		No differential impact	
Women or men		No differential impact	

	People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) <i>(Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)</i>	No differential impact
	Religion or belief (including lack of belief)	No differential impact
	People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual	No differential impact
	People who are transgendered	No differential impact
	People who are in a marriage or civil partnership	No differential impact
	Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave	No differential impact
	Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)	No differential impact
	Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)	No differential impact
14	Cumulative Impacts – Council wide (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts)	None

	identified above)	
15	Cumulative Impacts – Other public services (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)	None