

DRAFT - Supporting Information and Impact Assessment

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

Version:	1	Date:	October 2015	Author:	Fran Hughes/Ian Jones
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Section 1: Background Information

1.	What is the proposal / issue? This proposal is to reduce the Highways Management budget by £331k in 2016/17: 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. 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.
2.	What is the current situation? 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. 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.
3.	What options have been considered? To achieve the savings required the following is proposed;:

	<p>(a) Reduction in Highways Maintenance budgets and the increased use of Structural Maintenance capital funding for smaller scale works. Advantages - Maintain the reactive repair works and preventative maintenance. Disadvantages - 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> <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 will be carried out as part of the budget setting process – an online and paper questionnaire will be produced providing people with the opportunity to have their say regarding this proposal.</p>