

Briefing on Service Delivery Highways Infrastructure Development and Waste

Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

1. Introduction

This report provides an in year briefing on service delivery within Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste.

2. Overview

Work is progressing well with expenditure anticipated to meet the annual budget and good with progress on all works programmes. However, this position is dependent on some volatile areas for the budget, particularly severe weather, emergency maintenance and waste tonnage levels. The weather also has the potential to impact delivery of the capital programme.

3. Current Position Statements

3.1 Highways and Traffic Management

A new Term Maintenance Contract with Skanska commenced in April. Representatives from Skanska have already attended all the Highways and Traffic Orders Committees (HATOC) and more recently the annual Town and Parish Council conferences to introduce the company and their way of working. Work is ongoing with Skanska using a 'Systems Thinking' approach to review the management of safety defects. In addition to the safety defect process the treatment of serviceability issues on the main A road network has been revised with consideration of carrying out works in areas where there are non-safety defects. This has generated a number of schemes and consideration will be given on expanding this to other parts of the network. The contract is helping to deliver the 2017/18 savings required from the service.

Following the success of the Community Enhancement Fund in 2016/17 the scheme has continued into 2017/18. The purpose of the fund is to assist self-help schemes in parishes and towns. Last year £95,000 of grants was awarded to 41 different community groups, which achieved work to the value of £168,005.

An overview of the grants awarded, together with case studies of how the grants have been used, is available on our web site

<https://new.devon.gov.uk/communities/casestudy/overview-of-the-highway-maintenance-community-enhancement-fund-201617>

So far this financial year 37 applications have been funded to the value of £57,000, enabling £122,000 of works / projects to be delivered.

This year the service achieved Band 3 in the Incentive Fund, thereby maximising the amount of capital funding from government in addition to securing another successful Challenge Fund bid for works on the A361 at Tiverton.

The asset management approach for carriageways that is being followed has shown a stabilisation of the condition of the A and B road network, with some further deterioration on the overall condition of the C and unclassified network. However with approximately 66% (71% in 2015/16) of the unclassified network, either in need of treatment now or very soon, there is still a need for more funding to improve the condition of the network.

The Street Lighting service has made good progress on the delivery of the Street Lighting Carbon Savings Programme. This has involved the use of low energy equipment and the incremental delivery of the Part Night Lighting Programme, where lights are switched off late at night in residential roads where it is safe to do so. This current year is the final year of the 3 year Challenge Fund bid for installing low energy LED lighting on main road street lighting, which will reduce carbon emissions and energy revenue costs.

Following the success of the HATOC waiting restriction programme introduced in 2016/17, this year's programme has been widened to include minor aids to movement improvements, such as dropped kerbs.

The Civil Parking Enforcement Service continues to operate effectively. The annual report on the service is available at the following link: <https://new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/parking/>. The service is focussed on parking management to meet the needs of local communities and deal with issues relating to effective traffic flow, road safety and equitable use of available parking space on the highway.

3.2 Infrastructure Development

The Infrastructure Development service is delivering a challenging programme of capital funded schemes including highway (roads and bridges) schemes, schools maintenance and new schools projects.

Following the submission of a Strategic Outline Business Case to DfT for improvements to the A30 between Honiton and Devonshire Inn work has turned to the A361 North Devon Link Road which will result in a bid to DfT for approx. £88m to carry out improvements to the road between South Molton and Bideford.

Recent schemes to be completed include a number of junctions around Barnstaple, the challenging Bridge Road scheme and Tithebarn link from Cumberland Way around the Science Park. Construction work has commenced on the Tiverton Eastern Urban Extension new junction onto the A361 as well as the continuation of the Tithebarn link, including a new pedestrian/cycle bridge across the M5. In addition to these schemes the teams continue to progress a pipeline of projects including Marsh Barton station, Dinan Way and the widening of the A382.

There are currently 69 schemes within the schools maintenance programme of which approximately 40% have already been delivered in year. Additionally the schools basic need programme contains some notable projects including the long awaited replacement of Loddiswell Primary school on a new school site, a range of expansion schemes to meet local authorities statutory provision for school places as well as the conversion of two former care homes to accommodate children with additional educational needs.

3.3 Waste Management

New contracts to manage the treatment of separately collected food waste, garden waste and compostable street sweepings commenced on 1st April 2017 and are delivering significant savings. In addition a new Household Waste Recycling Centre contract was let to

Suez which also commenced on 1st April 2017 and includes a new re-use target as well as disposal diversion targets and operates under a performance management framework. The new recycling centre on the outskirts of Ivybridge opened on 1st March 2017 and has received numerous compliments from the residents of Ivybridge and environs. Four District Councils have now signed up to the Shared Savings Scheme and significant savings have already been achieved.

Residual waste in Devon continues to be treated at the Exeter and Plymouth Energy from Waste facilities. Both facilities generate electricity and the Plymouth plant provides heat to the Plymouth North Dockyard making it a very efficient facility. Work to find a new solution for the North Devon and Torridge areas has progressed with planning permission being obtained to develop a new waste transfer station at Brynsworthy, Barnstaple. A procurement exercise is currently underway to construct the transfer station and provide a waste treatment solution for a 10 year term which will need to be operational by February 2019. In addition, working in partnership with Mid Devon District Council, a new Waste transfer station has been developed near Willand and is now operational which will enable more waste to be diverted away from landfill and into energy recovery.

The Waste Prevention and Re-Use Strategy was published and the waste education contract was let to Resource Futures to continue to ensure that the key messages are delivered to future citizens but also their guardians thereby reducing waste at source and increasing re-use and recycling. Re-use and repair events have been held across the County boosting the re-use of electrical goods, furniture and textiles. The Devon Community Action Group based in the Tiverton area grows from strength to strength in promoting community events and social cohesion. The Don't let Devon go to waste campaigns have focussed on Love Food Hate Waste and promotion of home composting and use of kitchen waste caddies. Partnership working with the districts has boosted the take up of recycling by householders across Devon.

4. Budget Update

4.1 Highways

The new term maintenance contract commenced operation on 1st April 2017. Savings are expected from the new arrangements with Skanska and these have been built into the budget and are being achieved. As ever, the significant budgetary risks are generated by extreme weather events over the winter period. Every effort will be made to contain costs within overall budgets, although this may not be possible if significant extreme weather is encountered late in the financial year.

4.2 Waste

Disposal tonnages add a significant level of volatility to the Waste budget. Green waste tonnages have been higher than expected so far this year, probably due to the ideal growing conditions. However, overall disposal tonnages are currently close enough to budget for this increase to be contained.

Meg Booth
Chief Officers for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Highway Management: Councillor Stuart Hughes
Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Development and Waste: Councillor Andrea Davis

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper	Date	File Reference
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Nil.

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