

## Highways Performance Dashboard

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

### 1. Introduction

At the last Corporate, Infrastructure and Regulatory Services (CIRS) Scrutiny Committee in March a report was provided in response to the recommendations of the Planned & Reactive Maintenance: Potholes & Drainage Task Group. The report provided Members with an initial dashboard overview of the performance of Devon Highways.

This report provides updates to the information provided in the initial dashboard and offers additional information focused on some of the current seasonal work types that are being undertaken;

- Overview of grass cutting;
- Overview of surface dressing;
- Environmental Issues and
- Management of Insurance Claims.

### 2. Grass Cutting

Devon's policy is to cut the grass at junctions, laybys and the inside of bends to ensure road users have adequate visibility. The frequency of cutting is on an 'as-needed' basis but generally the frequency below has proved to be adequate.

- Rural priority network – twice or occasionally three times per annum;
- Rural 'other' roads – once per annum;
- Urban roads – four times per annum.

Devon is served by 405 Parish and Town Councils in addition to Exeter City Council. Currently Exeter City Council and 38 parishes and town councils have taken the option to carry out their own grass cutting. In addition, Mid Devon District Council cut the grass on behalf of 11 parishes.

#### 2.1. Rural

The 3rd week of May saw the commencement of the Rural grass cutting programme. Skanska have 9 self-delivery gangs and have recently invested in two new side arm mowers from a local Devon supplier. The works are focused on completing the visibility splays on the main road network.

#### 2.2. Urban

In May we completed the first of 4 planned urban cuts, complaints appear to have reduced mainly due to using the same resource to deliver as the previous year. Some parish councils have been in contact to try and coordinate with their local urban delivery. Skanska have started to use a digital system to capture the urban grass which we hope will enable us to provide more accurate reporting. The system has the capacity to include lots of operational tasks we deliver such as verges that have been used for disposing of siding spoil, special verges, wildflowers, noxious weeds, signs, street furniture etc.

A summary of progress to date can be seen in Appendix B.

### **3. Surface Dressing**

Surface dressing is a cost-effective maintenance option that helps make our roads safer by improving the skidding resistance and protects the road against weather and water damage by providing a waterproof seal.

The surface dressing season runs from April until the end September as the process needs warm, dry weather to allow the dressing to become established. Due to the weather dependent nature of the works the programme is regularly subject to change.

This year's programme consists of 1.06 million sqm and is being delivered by Kiely Bros Ltd. The contract commenced on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and has been divided into two phases to maximise programme efficiency, network demand and client/contractor expectation.

As of the end of May the initial phase of works has been completed, equating to 720,000 sqm (or 68%).

Phase 2 of the works consists of the narrow road network which requires specialist plant and the main road network which benefits from optimum road temperatures.

Phase 2 of the works were due to commence on 18<sup>th</sup> June and plan to deliver the remaining 340,000 sqm.

Work has already commenced on identifying next year's programme.

### **4. Environmental Issues**

#### **4.1. Devon Highways**

The partnership with Skanska remains focused on environmental compliance and continues to work on embedding good environmental management throughout the contract.

We have jointly delivered two core strategic projects:

- review and update of our CDM (The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations) Design Checklist and
- developed and delivered a strategy for sampling and analysis of waste materials.

We reviewed the Devon Highways CDM Design Checklist to ensure greater design control across the many types of design associated with Highways Maintenance activities. The aim of this project was primarily to improve environmental compliance by providing a checklist that was proportionate to the risk of the activity that enabled designers to easily seek further expert information if required. A number of additional benefits other than compliance were realised including:

- Increased knowledge and competence of staff;
- Better definition of client and contractor responsibilities in line with contractual requirements;
- Better understanding of risk at the design stage;
- Operational and systems efficiencies for both DCC and Skanska by defining one CDM checklist for all areas, ensuring consistency across the contract;
- Programme efficiencies as constraints are highlighted early in the planning process, reducing the potential for delayed schemes and unexpected finds.

Going forward we begin to increase our focus on 'Green Leadership'. Skanska have set a corporate target to be net zero on carbon emissions across their portfolio of projects which aligns with DCC's aim to be carbon neutral by 2050. We will run a series of contract workshops to enable us to align our objectives and develop a joint 'Journey to Deep Green'.

## 4.2. Streetlighting

Devon is responsible for approximately 90,000 streetlights across the County. Since 2008 we have converted approximately 55,000 lanterns to 'part night' and replaced 27,000 lanterns with LED units.

In 2008 street lighting consumed nearly 36.0M KWh of electricity and produced 18,800 tonnes of CO2. The Part Night Lighting (PNL) programme started around 2008 and was almost completed by the middle of 2015. This coincided with the start of the Challenge Fund (CF) in late 2015 which completed in 2018. By the end of 2018 the PNL and CF will have reduced our consumption by approximately 41%. This has reduced our annual street lighting energy consumption down to 21.3M KWh. In this period we have saved of 57.0M KWh of electricity and 28,900 tonnes of associated CO2 emissions.

In addition, we are embarking on a programme to replace a further 45,000 street lights with LED units over the next 3 years, and when completed we will be fully LED, reducing energy and CO2 further.

## 5. Insurance Claims

We currently have 30 outstanding claims with Skanska, this is the lowest since the contract started in April 2017. Importantly Skanska's speed of communication, both with claimants and our own staff is much improved and we are satisfied that they are meeting their obligations.

## 6. Gully Emptying

An update on the progress of the gully emptying programme can be seen in Appendix A.

Meg Booth  
Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

## Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Highway Management: Councillor Stuart Hughes

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

Contact for enquiries: Rob Richards

Room No. Lucombe House, County Hall, Exeter. EX2 4QD

Tel No: (01392) 383000

Background Paper	Date	File Reference
------------------	------	----------------

Nil

## Drainage Cleaning

### Gully emptying

Current completion 16%

As at 31/05/2019

	% Complete	Total Programmed	Attended	Left to Attend
<b>Honiton</b>	19%	23653	4385	19268
<b>Exeter &amp; Mid</b>	16%	33513	5474	28039
<b>Rydon</b>	16%	23394	3857	19537
<b>Ivybridge</b>	7%	19118	1355	17763
<b>Okehampton</b>	24%	15207	3718	11489
<b>Torrington</b>	20%	12497	2523	9974
<b>South Molton</b>	12%	20310	2368	17943
		<b>147692</b>	<b>23680</b>	<b>124012</b>

### Grips, Easements and Buddleholes

Current completion 12%

As at 24/05/2019

	% Complete	Total Programmed	Attended	Left to Attend
<b>GRIP Gang 1</b>	9%	26039	2273	23766
<b>GRIP Gang 2</b>	38%	6684	2551	4133
<b>GRIP Gang 3</b>	25%	11733	2879	8854
<b>GRIP Gang 4</b>	10%	8373	858	7515
<b>GRIP Gang 5</b>	4%	34208	1365	32843
<b>BUDDLE Gang 1</b>	30%	2048	622	1426
<b>BUDDLE Gang 2</b>	24%	3319	812	2507
		<b>92404</b>	<b>11360</b>	<b>81044</b>

**Grass Cutting**

**Rural**

Current completion 16%

As at 2/06/2019

	<b>% Complete</b>
<b>Ivybridge</b>	16%
<b>Rydon</b>	25%
<b>Tavistock</b>	23%
<b>Honiton 1</b>	26%
<b>Honiton 2</b>	20%
<b>Honiton 3</b>	80%
<b>Okehampton</b>	18%
<b>South Molton 1</b>	20%
<b>South Molton 2</b>	33%

**Urban**

Current completion 29%

As at 2/06/2019

	<b>% Complete</b>
<b>Gang 1</b>	31%
<b>Gang 2</b>	28%