

Report of the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Culture to the meeting of the Bradford South Area Committee to be held on 26th June 2014

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Subject:

Local Highway Maintenance – Devolution Update & function overview

Summary statement:

This report details how the service currently manages the Local Highway Maintenance function and allocates resources.

It also updates the committee with regard to current operations being undertaken on the network.

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Portfolio:
Housing, Planning and Transport

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Environment and Sport



Suzan Hemingway, City Solicitor

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report details how the service currently manages the Local Highway Maintenance (referred to as LHM) function.
- 1.2 It also updates the committee with regard to current operations being undertaken on the network and the indicative costs of works undertaken in the current financial year.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Local Highway Maintenance issues were devolved to Area Committee control in June 2013.
- 2.2 As part of the commitment to the devolution process reports information on the operations of Local Highway Maintenance are to be brought to the Area Committees on a quarterly basis.
- 2.3 The need to undertake highway repairs throughout the District is identified through a variety of sources including:
 - General public calls to the customer contact centre;
 - Inspections as a result of service requests dealt with by the Area Teams or as a result of observations by highway officers in the course of undertaking other duties; and
 - Programmed condition, safety and other surveys.
 - Safety Inspections.

Where repairs to the highway are required these are categorised depending upon the severity of the issue into one of four categories (CAT1, CAT2, CAT3 or CAT4). Each category has a target repair time which has been agreed with the Council's Insurers

- 2.4 Category 1 reports from the public and technical staff are passed directly through to the DLO and allocated to the work crews for immediate inspection and necessary remedial works.
- 2.5 Category 2 reports are assessed by technical staff and collated into operational zones so that operational gangs can visit and patch affected areas in a co-ordinated manner.
- 2.6 Category 3 and 4 sites are assessed by technical staff and ranked on a priority and needs basis, with works allocated to operational staff by the DLO Operations Manager.

- 2.7 Operation resources may be redeployed on short notice to deal with specific issues. Gang sizes may vary dependant on demand, staff leave and sickness. Service Level requirements – such as the need to respond to an extensive number of Cat 1 requests or the need to respond to emergency planning issues may also have an effect on the availability of operatives.
- 2.8 Technical and operational staff may be required to facilitate the needs of the winter service between November and April each year.
- 2.9 A list of work types covered by the Local Highway Maintenance budget is included in Appendix 1
- 2.10 A breakdown of the current technical staff allocation and an overview of their duties is included in Appendix 2
- 2.11 A breakdown of operational staff and their duties is included in Appendix 3
- 2.12 Currently Reported Cat 1 and 2 Figures are included in Appendix 4
- 2.13 The current list of completed and ordered Cat 3 and 4 works is included in Appendix 5
- 2.14 The Bradford Team Gully Cleaning for Bradford South is detailed in Appendix 6

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 There are no other considerations with regard to this matter.

4. OPTIONS

- 4.1 The committee may request additional information / clarification on issues to be included in the next devolved budget report due in September 2014.

5. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 5.1 The overall budget for Local Highway Maintenance is **£1.607m.**
- 5.1 The indicative spend for the Bradford South Area in 2014/15 as outlined in the initial devolution report to area committee is **£294,000.**
- 5.2 Spend to 31st May 2014 in the Bradford South Constituency Area for the 2014/15 financial year is as follows **£74,286** (25% of indicative allocation) breaking down as follows;
- 5.3 **£34,454** has been spent on Cat 1/2 repairs.
- 5.4 **£39,832** has been spent on Cat3/4 repairs including planned patching.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 6.1 Alterations to work programmes that have been prioritised in accordance with condition inspections and technical assessments may lead to increased insurance liabilities at a future date.

7. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 7.1 All works undertaken are carried out within the requirements of the Highways Act 1980

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

- 8.1.1 Due regard is given to Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 when formulating a programme of Highway Maintenance repairs.

8.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.2.1 Proactive repairs such as surface dressing / micro asphalt / carriageway patching and other routine maintenance serve to extend carriageway life.

8.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

- 8.3.1 There are no greenhouse gas implications arising from this report

8.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.4.1 Maintenance of the local highway network is essential to ensure the safe passage of all road users.

8.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

- 8.5.1 There are no human rights implications arising from this matter.

8.6 TRADE UNION

- 8.6.1 There are no trade union implications arising from this report.

8.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

- 8.7.1 Improvements in carriageway conditions benefit all wards.

8.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 8.8.1 The development and implementation of schemes included in this report support priorities within the Bradford South Area Committee Action Plan 2011-14.

9. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

9.1 None

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That the committee note the current operational methods adopted for Local Highway Maintenance.

10.2 That the indicative spend to date for the 2014/15 financial year is noted.

10.2 That the committee approves the current list of Cat 3/4 works as shown in Appendix 4

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1 - Work undertaken as part of the LHM Function

11.2 Appendix 2 - Technical Staff Overview

11.2 Appendix 3 - Operational Staff Overview

11.1 Appendix 4 - Bradford South Constituency Area Cat 1 & 2 Figures

11.2 Appendix 5 - Current Cat 3 works list (completed and ordered)

11.3 Appendix 6 – Bradford Team Gully Cleaning – Bradford South

12. Background Documents

12.1 Joint Report of the Director of Finance and Strategic Director of Environment and Sport to Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 10 April 2013 - Methodology for Allocation of Devolved Service Resources to the Five Area Committees.

12.2 Report of Strategic Director (Regeneration & Culture) to the meeting of Bradford South Area Committee, 28 March 2013 – The Transfer of Responsibility and Budget to the Bradford South Area Committee for Decision Making – Highway Repairs.

12.3 Joint Report of the Director of Finance and Strategic Director of Environment and Sport to the meeting of Executive, 16 March 2013 – Methodology for Allocation of Devolved Service Resources to the Five Area Committees.

12.4 Report of the Strategic Director (Regeneration & Culture) to the meeting of Bradford South Area Committee, 22 November 2012 – The Transfer of Responsibility and Budgets to the Bradford South Area Committee for Decision Making – Highway Repairs.

12.5 Joint Report of the Director of Finance and Strategic Director of Environment and Sport to Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee 1st November 2012

Appendix 1

Work undertaken as a part of the LHM Function.

The following is a list of work types funded by the Local Highway Maintenance budget.

- Cat 1 Potholes reactive response (footway and carriageway)
- Cat 2 Defect response/patching (footway and carriageway)
- Cat 3/4 Repairs & works (footway and carriageway)
- Planned carriageway patching works
- Kerbing, Channels, Edging works
- Large and small element footway repairs (block paving/flagging) Footway Re-construction (Taking up damaged flagged areas and replace with Tarmac)
- Highway Drainage repairs (Exploratory trial holes, dig outs of blocked gullies, Dyking, drainage connections, repairs to damaged culverts – including the cost of hiring specialist equipment/subcontractors for deep excavations)
- Emergency call out response ,Road Traffic Accidents, Dead Animals, Flooding, (including traffic management/road closures, dealing with requests from the police, requests from Emergency Planning
- Planned Gully Cleaning of 95,000 units across the District
- Repairs to minor highway walling elements
- Winter Maintenance - Road Gritting, Footway Gritting, Ploughing, grit bins etc (separate budget but re-directs resources from above).

Staffing costs are also included within this budget.

Appendix 2 – Technical Staff Overview

The deployment and allocation of Highway Maintenance Staff within the constituency Area Teams is currently under review as part of the ongoing Planning Transportation and Highways staffing restructure. The committee will be advised of any changes in reporting arrangements as appropriate.

Technical staff are currently deployed in each constituency area team reporting to the relevant area Principal Engineer for Highway Maintenance.

Staffing is allocated in the following manner; *(Please note the roles and duties described are indicative only and do not represent the full spectrum of works carried out by individuals)*

Senior Engineer

- Coordinates the actions of the Highway and RASWA Inspectors.
- Deals with legal issues relating to Highway Maintenance matters.
- Responds to queries and complaints from the public relating to Highway maintenance matters.
- Works with the Street works team to liaise on matters involving utility companies and wider network co-ordination.
- Develops and co-ordinates network condition and works programme lists in conjunction with the major maintenance team.
- Investigates larger network issues across the constituency area.

Highway Inspector

- Responds to complicated complaints and issues on the highway network that require technical assessments.
- Undertakes driven and walked inspections of the network on a schedule basis.
- Undertakes general condition surveys
- Works on a roaming basis across the constituency area

RASWA Inspector

- Inspects works carried out by statutory undertakers to ensure consistent standards of repair
- Co-ordinates repairs with utilities
- Undertakes general condition surveys
- Works on a roaming basis across the constituency area

Safety Inspectors

Four safety Inspectors operate across the whole of Bradford District working to a set inspection regime to comply with the requirements of the Councils insurance policy. These inspectors report to the Principal Engineer, Major Maintenance, with Cat 1 & 2 repair works ordered as necessary – this supplements the LHM function.

Appendix 3 – Operational Staff Overview

Operational staff are contracted to work the following hours;

07.00 to 16.00 Monday – Thursday

07.00 to 12.30 Fridays

A standby crew is available on Friday afternoons and weekends to deal with emergency issues as and when they arise.

Operational Resources are deployed across the five constituency areas, reporting to 3 programme managers under the direct control of the DLO Operations Manager. At present resources are allocated as followed for the following operational areas of **Bradford South/East/West & City Centre** – 22 operatives spread across

- Patching gang (6 FTE)

Work gangs carrying out planned patching of carriageways across the district in a structured manner, working on a thirty working day rotation between each of the constituency areas.

- Scheme gangs (7 FTE)

Work gang operating in each constituency area on a fifteen working day rotation, carrying out larger repairs on tarmac areas, flagging, kerbing, highway drainage and miscellaneous issues on carriageway and footway.

- Cat 1 and 2 & City centre gang(s) (9 FTE)

Reactive crews dealing with complaints received from the public and issues raised by the area Highway Inspectors.

Category 1 work is deployed as necessary within 24 hours.

Category 2 work is carried out on a five day rotation as per the Councils standards for response.

- Sub contractors (5 FTE)

Sub-contracted labour/personnel to augment/support operation staff plus hire equipment as necessary

- Gulley Cleansing Operations (3 Vehicles)

One vehicle based in the North and two vehicles based in the Southern constituency areas (Bradford West, East and South) These vehicles cover 95373 gullies across the district cleaning on average 80 gullies per day. Main arterial routes are cleaned annually and secondary routes and side roads are cleaned on average every two years. There is also a proactive and risk based approach to cleaning higher risk busy junctions and areas on a steep gradient. In Bradford South there are 10 junctions where the gullies are surveyed and checked every 3-6 months and cleaned out if the survey shows it is required.

Appendix 4 - Current Cat 1 and Cat 2 works update – 01/04/14 to 31/05/14

Category 1 Defects

<i>BRAD SOUTH</i>	<u>Defect Description</u>	<u>Qty Received</u>
	EMERGENCIES	5
	GM C/WAY	4
	GM F/WAY	2
	OTHER	3
	POTHOLES	1
	RECHARGE	1
	Area Total:	16

Notes

- Category 1 Defects are those that require immediate attention in order to ensure public safety.
- C/W Notifiable Cat 1 & 2 works are those requiring further investigation/breaking open the carriageway.
- GM C/Way and GM F/Way are defects picked up by highway inspection.
- Emergency Works covers missing/broken covers.
- Other works include referral to third parties (eg Statutory Undertakers) for action.

Category 2 Defects

BRAD SOUTH

<u>Defect Description</u>	<u>Qty Received</u>
C/W NOTIFIABLE CAT 1 & 2	51
F/W NOTIFIABLE CAT 1 & 2	94
FLAGS UNEVEN	3
GAPS IN PAVEMENT	1
GM C/WAY	220
GM F/WAY	135
OTHER	23
POTHOLES	12
Area Total:	539

Notes

- Category 2 Defects are those that require attention within five working days.
- Defects not completed within five working days required further investigations.
- C/W Notifiable Cat 1 & 2 works are those requiring further investigation/breaking open the carriageway.
- GM C/Way and GM F/Way are defects picked up by highway inspection.
- Emergency Works covers missing/broken covers.
- Other works include referral to third parties (eg Statutory Undertakers) for action.

Appendix 5 – Category 3 / 4 Works 2014/15

The list below shows works completed and ongoing works ordered following assessment

<u>Bradford South Scheme Locations</u>	<u>Scheme Description</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Cost</u>
SILVER BIRCH CLOSE	Take up flags, lay B/C and W/C	28/04/2014	£13,675.69
REEVY ROAD	Carriageway repairs	21/04/2014	£1,283.81
ASCOT DRIVE	Paving works	28/04/2014	£2,077.88
ASCOT DRIVE	Paving works	05/05/2014	£1,587.43
SCARLET HEIGHTS	Carriageway hot rolled asphalt	05/05/2014	£1,263.10
RHYLSTONE MOUNT	Footway work	05/05/2014	£1,088.13
NEW WORKS ROAD	Manhole repairs	05/05/2014	£340.02
ELMFIELD DRIVE	Paving works	09/06/2014	£1,476.27
REEVYLANDS DRIVE	Carriageway patching 108m2	14/04/2014	£2,884.04
HABOUR CRESCENT	Carriageway patching 81m2	14/04/2014	£2,348.95
HABOUR CRESCENT	Carriageway patching 215m2	21/04/2014	£3,818.82
HABOUR CRESCENT	Carriageway patching 15m2	28/04/2014	£552.87
SYKE LANE	Carriageway patching 160m2	02/06/2014	£5,656.91
CROSS LANE	Carriageway patching 50m2	02/06/2014	£1,777.92
Total			£39,831.84

Appendix 6 – Bradford Team Gully Cleaning – Bradford South April / May 2014

Street	No.	Date
Wibsey Park Ave	36	06/04/2014
Farfield Ave	22	06/04/2014
Griffe Head Road	51	06/04/2014
Common Road	50	07/04/2014
Smith Lane	30	08/04/2014
Brow Lane	3	02/05/2014
Baldwin Lane	21	02/05/2014
Rockwell Lane	16	06/05/2014
Back Lane	14	06/05/2014
Laneside	13	06/05/2014
Carter Lane	24	06/05/2014
Thornton Road Queensbury	13	06/05/2014
Summer Hall Ings	27	27/05/2014
The Acre	8	27/05/2014
Milnering	15	27/05/2014
Ruffield Side	15	27/05/2014
Silver Birch Drive	36	27/05/2014
Silver Birch Grove	12	27/05/2014
Shirley Ave	16	27/05/2014
Wilson Road	41	29/05/2014
Griffe Drive	19	29/05/2014
Corrance Road	14	29/05/2014
New Royd road	5	30/05/2014
Murgatroyd Street	5	30/05/2014
Villa Mount	19	30/05/2014
Balme Street	14	30/05/2014
Mayfield Ave	14	30/05/2014
Crown Street	7	30/05/2014
TOTAL APRIL/MAY	560	

Notes

- There were 21 customer requests via BDirect for gully cleaning in Bradford South during April and May.
- The aim is to deal with these requests within 21 days, however the majority of these are dealt with sooner.