

REVIEW BY THE PROPERTY, HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT SELECT COMMITTEE: *ATTAINING BEST PRACTICE AND VALUE FOR THE COUNCIL'S HIGHWAYS RESURFACING ACTIVITIES*

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor Jonathan Bianco
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport
Officer Contact(s)	Mark Braddock, Democratic Services
Papers with report	Final review report

HEADLINES

Summary	To receive the final report detailing the major review conducted by the Property, Highways and Transport Select Committee which considered the Council's highways resurfacing activities. The review makes recommendations for Cabinet to consider.
Putting our Residents First - Delivering on the Council Strategy 2022-2026	This report supports our ambition for residents / the Council of: Live in good quality, affordable homes in connected communities. This report supports our commitments to residents of: A Green and Sustainable Borough.
Financial Cost	There are no direct financial costs arising from the recommendations in this report.
Select Committee	Property, Highways and Transport Select Committee
Relevant Ward(s)	All

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

- 1) Welcomes the Select Committee's report and its insights and findings, which seek to support and enhance the delivery of Highways resurfacing and maintenance across the Borough, taking a broad assessment of existing procedures, new technologies, methods, materials and scheduling possibilities to obtain best value and service for residents.
- 2) Agrees to delegate decisions on taking forward the implementation of the Committee's specific recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport, in conjunction with officers.

SELECT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Engagement and Communication

- 1) To develop a standardised Highways Resurfacing response template for Members Enquiries, to include the reasoning behind the response, the scheduling of works and estimated timescales, or reasons why a timescale cannot be given.**
- 2) To endorse the principle of feedback from residents and Ward Councillors contributing to the process by which the Council assesses the condition of footways and roadways and their priority for repair.**
- 3) To ensure that information regarding planned major resurfacing works is transparent and available to the Ward Councillors and the public where possible.**
- 4) To seek to enhance communication with relevant authorities that manage prominent highways in the Borough (National Highways and Transport for London) regarding any deterioration of their network impacting Hillingdon's residents.**
- 5) That the Council's Highways, and Green Spaces Teams consult each other formally and frequently to ensure the issue of tree root protrusion on footways and roadways is mitigated effectively.**

Promoting Green Initiatives and Cost Efficiencies

- 6) That where possible, adopt and promote less energy intensive resurfacing techniques such as the recycling of materials and expanding trials using Warm Mixed Asphalt.**
- 7) Endorse the use of new resurfacing technologies and techniques including the new machine purchased for the delivery of reactive highways maintenance work.**
- 8) Support cost effective methods of repaving footways such as the move to tarmac where appropriate, rather than replacing all footways 'like for like'.**
- 9) Encourage the early ordering of works and volume of works discounts offered by the Council's Resurfacing Contractor.**

Reasons for the recommendations

The recommendations arising from this major review aim to support the Cabinet and Council in developing its delivery of Highways resurfacing and maintenance across the Borough.

Alternative options considered / risk management

The Cabinet could decide to reject some, or all, of the Committee's recommendations or pursue alternative routes by which to progress the objectives of the review.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Property, Highways and Transport Select Committee have been conducting a major scrutiny review into attaining best practice and value for the Council's highways resurfacing activities. The primary purpose of the review was to take a broad assessment of new technologies, methods, materials and scheduling possibilities to obtain best value and service for residents. By looking at the local context within Hillingdon, the London-wide setting, and the national picture, the Select Committee is now in a position to offer their findings and recommendations to the decision-making Cabinet.

The following Terms of Reference were agreed by the Committee from the outset of the review:

1. To understand the Council's current position and procedures with regard to highways reconstruction and resurfacing;
2. To explore the national legislative setting and initiatives undertaken by other London Boroughs and local authorities in relation to highways resurfacing;
3. To explore recent developments in resurfacing technologies, methods and materials;
4. To assess options for adopting new scheduling possibilities in an effort to improve the efficiency of the Council's resurfacing programme;
5. To influence any emerging Council plans with respect to footways and roadways management in terms of meeting carbon reduction targets;
6. Subject to the Committee's findings, to make any conclusions, propose actions, service and policy recommendations to the decision-making Cabinet.

Information Gathering:

As part of its witness and evidence sessions, the Select Committee received direct evidence from the following witnesses in addition to conducting a site visit to observe a reactive maintenance road surface repair:

- Poonam Pathak - Head of Highways
- Wayne Greenshields – Network Operations Manager
- Martin Kenealy – Reactive Maintenance Supervisor
- Christopher O'Hara – Director, O'Hara Bros. Surfacing Ltd
- Councillor Jonathan Bianco – Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport

Additionally, a broad range of evidence, best practice and supporting information was provided as part of the Committee's deliberations.

Findings and recommendations

As stated in the review report, the Committee generally commended the condition of roads within Hillingdon and understood that local highway authority budgets were currently squeezed in all parts of the country. The Select Committee was also encouraged at the Council's intention to increase the amount of resurfacing and repair work conducted on Hillingdon's highway network in future.

The Committee's recommendations seek to support the direction of travel of the Highways Service are grouped into two broad categories, 'Engagement and Communication' and 'Promoting Green Initiatives and Cost Efficiencies'.

The recommendations around Engagement and Communication seek to take into account the way that the Council interacts with residents and Ward Councillors about highways matters, in addition to external stakeholders including contractors and other relevant authorities tasked with maintaining some of the Borough's prominent highways.

The recommendations around Promoting Green Initiatives and Cost Efficiencies look at more cost-effective ways maintaining our roads in the future, along with the Council's commitment to reducing its carbon emissions. This is all acknowledged with the need for managing cost within approved budgets.

Officer Comments on Recommendations

The recommendations have been reviewed by the relevant senior officers in the Place Directorate. Officers are supportive of the recommendations and have raised no issues regarding their feasibility as part of the direction of travel for the Highways Service. The Service will work with the Cabinet Member on the most suitable way they can be implemented.

Financial Implications

There are no new financial costs arising from the recommendations in this report. Furthermore, many of the Committee's recommendations aimed at less energy intensive resurfacing, new technologies and more cost-effective repaving techniques support the delivery of financial savings for the service area.

There are no direct capital finance impact from the data within this report.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

The benefit or impact upon Hillingdon residents, service users and communities

The recommendations seek to both support and provide further strategic direction on the Council's Highways resurfacing activities in addition to providing residents with increased levels of transparency. A standardised Highways Resurfacing response template for Members' Enquiries will also improve engagement between Ward Councillors and Highways Teams.

Consultation carried out or required

The Committee sought a range of internal and external witness testimony, as set out in the report.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance have reviewed this report and concur with the Financial Implications set out above, noting that there are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

Legal

Legal Services confirm that there are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL.