

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD



Report subject	Road maintenance across the BCP area
Meeting date	19 July 2021
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	The Board is asked to consider information provided on road maintenance across the BCP area, making recommendations as appropriate and agreeing any further action for scrutiny. This follows a request for scrutiny that was made by a Councillor and subsequently agreed by the Board for inclusion on its Forward Plan.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that: a) the Board considers the information provided by the service area in relation to road maintenance across the BCP area, and makes recommendations as appropriate; b) the Board determines whether any further scrutiny is required on this matter. If further scrutiny is agreed, a scope should be outlined.
Reason for recommendations	The Board agreed to undertake scrutiny on the matter of road maintenance across the BCP area, further to a request to do so from a Councillor. Information has been provided by the service area on the matter and requires discussion at a Board meeting. Consideration of this information should lead the Board to determine whether any further scrutiny work is required or whether the matter may be completed and removed from the Forward Plan. All scrutiny work to be undertaken should be accompanied by a clear scope identifying the specific issues that the Board seeks to affect, and the value to be added by this work.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Mike Greene, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Sustainability Councillor Mark Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Cleansing and Waste
Corporate Director	Kate Ryan, Chief Operations Officer
Report Authors	Lindsay Marshall, Overview and Scrutiny Specialist
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For decision

Background

1. At its meeting on 2 November 2020 the O&S Board agreed to add the matter 'Road Maintenance across the BCP area' to its Forward Plan for scrutiny. This followed a request for scrutiny raised by a Councillor in line with Part 4 Section C2 of the constitution which makes provision for any Councillor to suggest an item for scrutiny.
2. The Board agreed that further information was required to aid its understanding of road maintenance across the BCP area. Questions were posed to Officers and the Portfolio Holder with answers provided and published 1 February 2021. The information provided has not yet been discussed at a meeting of the Board. The information is published again with this report at Appendix 1. A related discussion on a Cabinet report 'Highways Asset Management Policy' was also had at the Board meeting of 1 April 2021, at which the Portfolio Holder was present to answer questions.
3. The Board is now asked to consider the information provided at Appendix 1, with the assistance of the Portfolio Holder and Officers of the service who will be present at the meeting. Recommendations to Officers, the Portfolio Holder or the Cabinet may be made, as appropriate. There is a duty for the Cabinet and Portfolio Holder to reply to any recommendations directed to it/them by the O&S Board. In addition to any recommendations, next steps should also be considered by the Board, these are outlined in the options appraisal below.

Options Appraisal

4. The information provided to the Board so far may be classed as 'fact finding' information, providing Councillors with a good baseline of understanding about road maintenance in BCP, to enable determination of whether any scoped scrutiny work is required in this area. Should the Board feel that further work is required in this area, the constitution requires consideration of the value that will be added by the work, along with the resources available to the Board to undertake this work. A clear scope should be outlined that demonstrates consideration of this. An example scoping paper is attached at Appendix 2.
5. Should the Board determine that no further scrutiny work is required on road maintenance at this time it should agree to update its Forward Plan accordingly.

Summary of financial implications

6. N/A

Summary of legal implications

7. The right of any Councillor to request that an item be scrutinised is set out in the Local Government Act 2000. The Council's constitution outlines the process that should be followed by Overview and Scrutiny bodies when considering items for its Forward Plan. The key considerations are reflected in the body of this report.

Summary of human resources implications

8. N/A

Summary of sustainability impact

9. N/A

Summary of public health implications

10. N/A

Summary of equality implications

11. N/A

Summary of risk assessment

12. N/A

Background papers

Published works:

Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting 2pm, 2 November 2020

Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting 6pm, 1 April 2021

Appendices

1. Questions and Answers regarding road maintenance across the BCP area
2. Template Overview and Scrutiny scoping report.