

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE BOARD 18 JANUARY 2017

DRAFT UPDATE REPORT: FOOTWAYS SCRUTINY TASK GROUP

Summary

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) is asked to consider and approve the attached draft update report of the Footways Scrutiny Task Group.

Background

2. In a notice of motion agreed at Council in November 2014, Council recognised the importance of walking as part of a healthy lifestyle and that in addition safe footways were especially important for the elderly to access local shops and services. At the time, there were concerns that the county's footways revenue budget of £800,000 in 2014/15 and beyond would be inadequate to maintain footways and that the inspection criteria was insufficiently rigorous to identify where the surface was unsafe for less able walkers.

3. As a result of the concerns expressed by Council and the Budget Scrutiny Task Group, a proposal for a Scrutiny Task Group to examine in detail the issue of Footways was approved on 8 June 2015.

Terms of Reference

4. The purpose of this Task Group was to scrutinise the following:
 - the existing and predicted condition of Worcestershire's footways
 - the criteria for intervention and whether it is sufficient to make footways safe for less able walkers
 - current spending on footways – how funding is prioritised and allocated
 - are current spending plans sufficient to maintain or improve current condition across each category of footway
 - whether increased investment now might lead to savings in the future
 - the potential impact of plans for increased integration of Public Rights of Way work with highways work

Progress to date

5. Unfortunately due to matters arising, the review has failed to reach a consensus over the content of the final report from the task group. It has therefore been agreed that the Task Group will present this update report to OSPB at the earliest opportunity.

OSPB's Role

7. One of the OSPB's roles is to monitor the quality of scrutinies that are carried out to ensure that scrutiny reports are robust and evidence based, and that they follow the terms of reference agreed by the OSPB.

8. To help with this, the Task Group's lead has provided the OSPB with regular verbal updates on the progress of the scrutiny.

Next Steps

9. Once the Board is content, the update report will be considered at Cabinet on 2 February 2017.

Purpose of the Meeting

10. The OSPB is now invited to consider, comment on and approve the attached update report.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1- Draft Update Scrutiny Report - Footways Scrutiny Task Group

Contact Point for the Report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Agenda and minutes of the OSPB meetings on 8 June 2015, 23 September 2015, 2 December 2015, 21 April 2016, 23 June 2016 and 12 October 2016.
- [All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.](#)