

## **Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

### **Wednesday, 18 January 2023, 2.00 pm, County Hall, Worcester**

#### **Membership**

##### **Councillors:**

Cllr Alastair Adams (Chairman), Cllr Tony Muir (Vice Chairman), Cllr Mel Allcott, Cllr Paul Harrison, Cllr Aled Luckman, Cllr Emma Marshall, Cllr Beverley Nielsen, Cllr David Ross and Cllr Emma Stokes

#### **Agenda Supplement**

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All the above reports and supporting information can be accessed via the Council's website [here](#)

Date of Issue: Wednesday 11 January 2023

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## **ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 18 JANUARY 2023**

### **NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND EFFICIENCIES IN HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE WHICH COULD BENEFIT WORCESTERSHIRE RESIDENTS**

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#### **Summary**

1. The Panel has requested an update on new developments and efficiencies in highway maintenance which could benefit Worcestershire residents and, in particular, the perspective from the Council's Highways Maintenance Service Contractor for Highways, Ringway. A previous report was presented to the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel in January 2020.
2. Representatives from Ringway have been invited to the meeting, along with the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways and Transport and Senior Officers from the Economy and Infrastructure Directorate.

#### **Background**

3. Ringway Infrastructure Services Limited is part of the Eurovia Group and on a national basis is responsible for maintaining over 50,000 kms of the public highway. In the Midlands region, it has contracts with Gloucestershire County Council and Wiltshire Council.
4. Ringway have the opportunity to introduce best practice, innovations and efficiencies from its other clients and share best practice from Worcestershire with others. There are a number of funding streams for highways maintenance including funding through the Department for Transport (DfT) needs/ formula allocation with an element from the DfT Incentive Fund (Capital), Worcestershire County Council Capital allocation and Worcestershire County Council Revenue. In addition, additional funding may be derived from Public Realm, small works, and Member requests.
5. The information set out in this report and in the presentation attached at Appendix 1 will be used to support the Panel's discussion.

#### **Highways Maintenance Service Contract and Key Performance Indicator (KPI) requirements**

6. The Highway Maintenance Service Contract (HMSC) commenced in April 2014 for a core period of 6.5 years. The Contract is an evolution of the previous Term Maintenance Contract. It is outcome based and the Council is actively monitoring 15 Key Performance Indicators (KPI's). Subject to satisfactory performance thresholds and performance criteria being achieved, there is the ability, by

agreement to increase the contract by individual years up to 2026 (12.5 years maximum). There are no monetary rewards attached to the KPIs for this Contract.

7. Contract performance reviews at weekly Contract Management Team (CMT) meetings, ensure the productivity, quality and status of defects and other contract targets are reviewed. Alongside this there is a more strategic quarterly review. KPI's address contractual performance for all aspects of service delivery in highway maintenance covering:
  - Design and Build – highways surfacing, surface dressing, patching and structural/preventative maintenance
  - Routine and Cyclic – verge maintenance, road markings and studs, gully emptying (drains), safety defect repairs (potholes etc.), tree works, sign clearance/cleaning and lining etc
  - Flooding and drainage work
  - Public Realm works and other smaller Local Works.
8. The use of an NEC TSC has a number of mechanisms that ensures the the Council shares any efficiencies and savings with the Contractor rather than those efficiencies simply giving the Contractor additional profit as in more traditional types of Contract.

## **Innovations and efficiencies in Service Delivery**

9. The information set out in this report and appendix focusses on specific issues in terms of new ways of working and innovations led by both Ringway and the Council, driving improvements in service delivery and increased efficiencies.
10. The contract mechanisms allow efficiencies to be realised and both parties benefit from those efficiencies:

### **i. Environmental Initiatives**

The roadmap demonstrates the collective commitment to driving urgent actions to become net zero by 2050. Initiatives include electric vehicle roll out, bio-diversity plans, diverting waste from landfill and increasing recycling opportunities.

### **ii. Digitisation**

The presentation slides outline some of the opportunities to embrace digital opportunities to improve systems, processes and enhancing the customer experience.

### **iii. Social Value**

Demonstration of clear and committed social value with quantifiable social benefits, both wider financial benefits and non-financial outcomes. It is essential to consider the wider social, economic, and environmental benefits, and recognise the important values that can be derived through engagement with communities.

#### **iv. Self-Delivery**

The aspiration is to self-deliver a minimum of 70% of works. There will be occasions when sub-contracts are necessary to ensure that supply and demand continue to be met. Ringway's supply chain partners are only engaged when they comply with criteria.

#### **Purpose of the Meeting**

The Panel is asked to:

- Consider and comment on the updated information provided on new developments and efficiencies in highway maintenance which could benefit Worcestershire residents,
- Agree any comments to highlight to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport,
- Determine whether any further information or scrutiny on a particular topic is required.

#### **Supporting Information**

Appendix 1 – Presentation Slides

#### **Specific Contact Points for this report**

Alyson Grice/Alison Spall, Overview and Scrutiny Officers Tel: 01905 844962/846607  
Email: [scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk)

#### **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager (Interim Monitoring Officer)), the following are background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

[Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel 23 January 2020 - Worcestershire County Council \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

[All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.](#)

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Ringway



# Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel

18<sup>th</sup> January 2023

# Contents

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- Update since January 2020 Scrutiny
- Environmental Initiatives
- Digitisation
- Social Value
- Self Delivery





# Actions/Information Requested from January 2020

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- update on pothole/rut repairs to show incidences of repeat repairs and which materials had been used
- updates on new best practice and good news stories
- information about materials available for highway maintenance
- briefing on the Highways Maintenance Services Contract including KPIs
- visit a depot to see staff using smart technology
- annual update on new efficiencies and developments in highway maintenance
- workforce education – resident access, positioning of equipment.....
- review of communications with councillors about planned highway works



# Update on pothole/rut repairs

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- Type 1 defects are permanent repair
- Type 2 defects are a temporary repair which form part of the asset management strategy which feeds into the carriageway/footway programmes
- All asphalt repairs are carried out using AC (Asphaltic Concrete (macadam)) surface course (6mm or 10mm)



# Updates on best practice and good news stories

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- Footway Workshop – June 2022
  - Alternative to traditional asphalt construction – micro asphalt surfacing and overlay works have increased resulting in less arisings
  - Increase use of recycled binder course – Recofoam produced at the Stanford Depot has now replaced traditional asphaltic concrete (tarmac) binder course in footway reconstruction
  - Increase usage of Warm Mix Asphalts as a surface course in footways



# Updates on best practice and good news stories (contd)

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- Carriageway Workshop (May 2022)
  - Increased usage of Warm Mix Asphalts now including Surface Courses
  - Introduction of E-Tech – asphalt delivery, laying and compacting tracking to ensure correct temperatures are maintained
  - Increased usage of recycled binder courses (Reco-foam) to address the disposal of tar bound planings



# E-Tech Summary



# Materials available for highway maintenance

## Warm Mix Asphalts (as previously discussed)

### Pros:-

- reduced carbon emissions during production
- Open to traffic in a shorter period

### Cons:-

- More difficult to rake in colder weather (surface course)
- Potential for material failure due to reduced temps at laying and compaction stages
- Leads to seasonal working
- Remedial works would wipe out any carbon reduction benefits

## Footway micro asphalt

### Pros:-

- Self delivery
- Preventative maintenance
- Whole life value
- Minimum waste (reduction in excavation volumes)

### Cons:-

- Seasonal



# Materials available for highway maintenance (contd)

## **Paco Patch (permanent ironwork adjusting)**

### Pros :-

- Tried and tested longevity of repair,
- Less than 1% of all works have been revisited
- quick process meaningless disruption to travelling public

## **Ulti fast-path (single course 'macadam' for reconstruction of footpaths)**

### Pros :-

- One application – laid and compacted in one single layer resulting in reduced working time
- Reduced waste – generally laid at 60mm versus traditional footway construction of 100mm
- One course approach to replace concrete flag paving with a flexible pavement

**Red Stag EZ Street** – a cold lay material for rapid pothole repairs. Low energy produced material utilising bio fuels in stead of diesel – currently being trialled.

# Highways Maintenance Service Contract (HMSC)

- KPIs used to monitor Contractor Performance and mechanism to award extensions
- Core Period of contract - 6.5 years from 1 April 2014 to 30 Sept 2020
- Opportunity for Contractor to earn a total of a further 6 years of extensions based on performance
- Extensions earned throughout the duration of Contract within designated Core years
- This aids forward Planning for both parties
- Three key 'Gateway KPIs' which the Contractor must pass before considering the Scored KPIs
- Scored KPIs consist of 10 individual indicators
- To achieve a further extension the Contractor must meet minimum acceptable score for all indicators
- To date the Contractor has been successful in doing so
- Contractor recently awarded a further Extension Year as the 'extension release score' during core period 6 was achieved
- This extends the current contract end date to 30 September 2025 (latest possible end date of 30 September 2026)



# Depot Visit

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- Members visit to Lydiate Ash in March 2022 to view:
  - Defect Reporting (a day in the life of a defect)
  - Gully emptying video and reporting
  - Road Marking video and reporting
  - Intelliframe
  - Recycling – including Reco-foam and type 1 production



# Annual update on new efficiencies and developments in highway maintenance

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- Root cutting and pipe sleeving
- Asset management efficiencies through data collection (ESRI/GIS systems)
- Drones for structures and bridges inspections
- Laser cutting of paving materials
- Pontoon for bridgeworks
- Remote controlled compaction plant



# Workforce education – resident access, positioning of equipment.....

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- Conflict resolution training
- Body Cams now worn
- Lone worker devices
- Roadworker anti-abuse campaign supported by Jon Fraser, BBC, MP
- Sure Cams – vehicle cab cameras
- Traffic Management plans are agreed in advance regarding siting of signage and signal heads



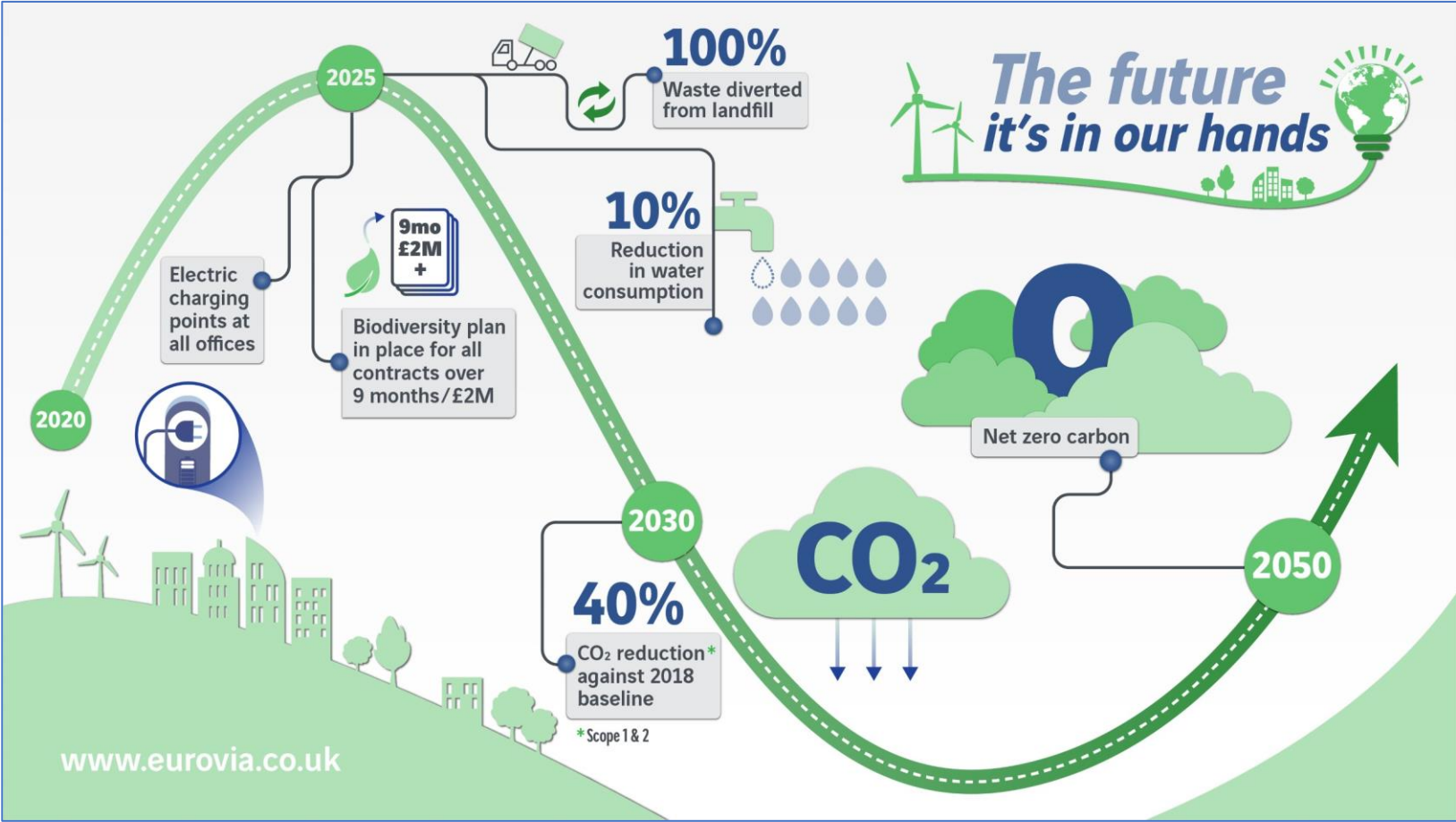
# Review of communications with councillors about planned highway works

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- Regular meeting – WCC and Ringway – including communications teams, to discuss service areas and when best to publish/produce good news stories
- Weekly publication of ‘Highways on Fridays’ listing planned works/events for the forthcoming week.
- Further comms on works affecting key routes, which Local Members can then disseminate wider within their own Divisions.
- Further consideration to be given to alternative methods of communication, e.g. WhatsApp



# Environment



# Environmental – Vinci Environmental Day/Awards

- **Environmental Day (Global event)**

- now to be held annually
- opportunity for subsidiaries and divisions to reflect on how they can change their daily operations to achieve our environmental ambitions

- **Environmental Awards – 1**

- 200 ideas gathered from all employees around the world
- looking at how these ambitions can be rolled out into all parts of the business



# Environmental – Initiatives

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- Ringway Fleet working with WCC to explore HVO fuel possibilities
- Increase use of Electric vehicles for company cars and operational vehicles. EV charging points installed at Warndon and Newlands
- 96.9% of waste diverted away from tip with the highest % of recycled arisings since the contract began in 2014
- Beehives to be established in four of the Worcestershire Ringway Depots in 2023
- Depots in Bloom – encouraging depots to be more environmentally friendly (huge buy-in from the teams)



# Environmental – Initiatives contd....

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- Environment Day - held in September attended by Councillor Morris held at the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, Lower Smite Farm
- Volunteering Days – Staff encouraged to take two days to participate in local community projects → 380 person days potentially per annum
- Forest of Dean & Wyre Forest 60 mile link corridor
- Ringway now associated working with WEG, WDT, WWT and WGRT (Vinci funding) and Director of Sustainability for Worcester University
- Recycling of gully waste





# Environmental – Recycling Stanford Depot

• 2022 YTD:

	Quantity In (tonnes)			Quantity Out (tonnes)		
	Hardcore	RAP	AWCCT	Type 1	HD RECOFOAM®	Storage RECOFOAM®
<b>Worcs.</b>	16,667	525	1,212	4,319	330	5,900
<b>Gloucs.</b>	369			380		
<b>External</b>	-			10,006		
<b>Total</b>	17,036	525	1,212	14,705	330	5,900

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• Highlights:

- 6,099 tonnes back swept surface dressing chippings washed to produce 4,959 tonnes of re-usable products (clean aggregate for SD and dusting activities)
- 1,212 tonnes asphalt waste containing coal tar (AWCCT) diverted from landfill and encapsulated within RECOFOAM® products for re-use
- 623 tonnes gully waste arisings transferred to local recycling facility for re-use
- Achieved contract extension KPI for recycling 50.78% (against target of 40%)



# Environment – Network Resilience

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Network Resilience Forum (Severe Weather Events) – WCC and Ringway Working Group Established in 2021

- Proactive Asset Management
- Reactive Restoration following an Incident
- Resilient Communications

Highly Commended at the CIHT Awards September 2022

Network Resilience Forum 2.0 for 2023 including Environment Agency



# Digital

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- Senior Supervisor based at Lydiate Ash part of Group Digital Working Forum
- ESRI – drainage, grit bins, recording of out of hours attendance to deploy traffic management
- Drones – Bridge inspections (reduction in Traffic Management)
- Fleet Management – stock control (paperless)
- E-Tech – Coated Material Monitoring System in conjunction with Eurovia – as previously discussed
- Tablets for site Teams (paperless) – stat plans, project packs etc.
- WCC/Ringway to create paperless offices during 2023



# Social Value

- Operation London Bridge
- Volunteering Days
- Vinci UK Foundation – Wild Goose Rural Training £6800 grant awarded
- Tree of Trees
- Fund raising activities
- Community Engagement



# Social Value 2023

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- More Volunteering in 2023 (380 days)
- Themes, Outcomes & Measures (TOM's 2023) – measuring social value
- Offenders programme – in discussion with other contracts
- Interaction with schools – area-based recruitment drive of Apprentices
- Career days



# Self Delivery

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- Target to self deliver a minimum of 70% of all works
- Currently self delivering 65%
- Majority of the remaining 35% is delivered by Worcestershire based supply chain partners including:-
  - Kelbec – Redditch (public realm works)
  - C R MacDonalds – Redditch (footway and carriageway surfacing)
  - Teme Civils – Tenbury Wells (Future High Street Funding works)
  - Green Waste Recycling – Droitwich (Sweeper and Planer services)

