

Agenda

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Wednesday, 7 March 2018, 10.00 am
County Hall, Worcester

All County Councillors are invited to attend and participate

This document can be provided in alternative formats such as Large Print, an audio recording or Braille; it can also be emailed as a Microsoft Word attachment. Please contact Democratic Services on telephone number 01905 844965 or by emailing democraticservices@worcestershire.gov.uk

DISCLOSING INTERESTS

There are now 2 types of interests:
'Disclosable pecuniary interests' and **'other disclosable interests'**

WHAT IS A 'DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST' (DPI)?

- Any **employment**, office, trade or vocation carried on for profit or gain
- **Sponsorship** by a 3rd party of your member or election expenses
- Any **contract** for goods, services or works between the Council and you, a firm where you are a partner/director, or company in which you hold shares
- Interests in **land** in Worcestershire (including licence to occupy for a month or longer)
- **Shares** etc (with either a total nominal value above £25,000 or 1% of the total issued share capital) in companies with a place of business or land in Worcestershire.

NB Your DPIs include the interests of your spouse/partner as well as you

WHAT MUST I DO WITH A DPI?

- **Register** it within 28 days and
- **Declare** it where you have a DPI in a matter at a particular meeting
 - you must **not participate** and you **must withdraw**.

NB It is a criminal offence to participate in matters in which you have a DPI

WHAT ABOUT 'OTHER DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS'?

- No need to register them but
- You must **declare** them at a particular meeting where:
You/your family/person or body with whom you are associated have a **pecuniary interest** in or **close connection** with the matter under discussion.

WHAT ABOUT MEMBERSHIP OF ANOTHER AUTHORITY OR PUBLIC BODY?

You will not normally even need to declare this as an interest. The only exception is where the conflict of interest is so significant it is seen as likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

DO I HAVE TO WITHDRAW IF I HAVE A DISCLOSABLE INTEREST WHICH ISN'T A DPI?

Not normally. You must withdraw only if it:

- affects your **pecuniary interests OR** relates to a **planning or regulatory** matter
- **AND** it is seen as likely to **prejudice your judgement** of the public interest.

DON'T FORGET

- If you have a disclosable interest at a meeting you must **disclose both its existence and nature** – 'as noted/recorded' is insufficient
- **Declarations must relate to specific business** on the agenda
 - General scattergun declarations are not needed and achieve little
- Breaches of most of the **DPI provisions** are now **criminal offences** which may be referred to the police which can on conviction by a court lead to fines up to £5,000 and disqualification up to 5 years
- Formal **dispensation** in respect of interests can be sought in appropriate cases.

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel Wednesday, 7 March 2018, 10.00 am, County Hall, Worcester

Membership

Councillors:

Mr A A J Adams (Chairman), Mr P Denham (Vice Chairman), Mr G R Brookes, Mr B Clayton, Mr M E Jenkins, Mr A D Kent, Mr J A D O'Donnell, Ms C M Stalker and Ms R Vale

Agenda

Item No	Subject	Page No
1	Apologies and Welcome	
2	Declarations of Interest and of any Party Whip	
3	Public Participation Members of the public wishing to take part should notify the Head of Legal and Democratic Services in writing or by email indicating the nature and content of their proposed participation no later than 9.00am on the working day before the meeting (in this case 6 March 2018). Enquiries can be made through the telephone number/email address below.	
4	Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting Previously circulated.	
5	Highways England	1 - 2
6	Street Lighting	3 - 6
7	Work Plan Current version enclosed for consideration.	7 - 10

Agenda produced and published by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP. To obtain further information or hard copies of this agenda, please contact Emma James or Jo Weston 01905 844965, email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

All the above reports and supporting information can be accessed via the Council's website [websitehttp://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20013/councillors_and_committees](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20013/councillors_and_committees)

Date of Issue: Tuesday, 27 February 2018

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ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 7 MARCH 2018

HIGHWAYS ENGLAND

Summary

1. The Panel will receive an overview on the work of Highways England including its role and schemes of work.
2. Representatives from Highways England have been invited to the meeting, as well as Officers from the Economy and Infrastructure Directorate.

Background

3. Highways England is responsible for England's motorways and major A roads, while local roads are managed by the relevant local authority (in Worcestershire this is the County Council). The Highways England website contains further information about its role: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england/about
4. The primary sources of interaction the County Council has with Highways England is as follows:
 - Operational Issues – including co-ordinating roadworks, managing incidents and events i.e. road closures
 - Strategic Issues – including future options for enhancement through the Roads Investment Strategy and Route Studies
 - Development Management – liaising on relevant local plans and planning applications
5. The work and role of Highways England was added to the Scrutiny Panel's work programme following the Council's overarching Scrutiny Board's discussion of transport in Worcestershire, as part of its review of the draft Local Transport Plan for 2018 - 2031 (LTP4). Some of the areas where clarification was sought included the impact of major works on nearby relief roads and residents, and how information about road closures is communicated to residents and road users.
6. Arising from this discussion, the Board asked the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel to look at the role of Highways England and how it works with the County Council.

Purpose of the Meeting

7. Following the discussion, the Panel is asked to:
 - consider and comment on the information provided
 - determine whether any further information or scrutiny is required at this stage
 - agree any comments to highlight to the Cabinet Member/s.

Supporting Information

[Roads Investment Strategy: 2015 - 2020](#)

[Roads Investment Strategy: post 2020](#)

[Guidance: Planning and the major road network in England](#)

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Specific Contact Points for this Report

Emma James / Jo Weston, Overview and Scrutiny Officers, Tel: 01905 844964 / 844965

Email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

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 Overview and Performance Board on 7 November 2017 – accessible on the Council's website [here](#)

Minutes and Agendas are available on the Council's website at

<http://worcestershire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=388>

ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 7 MARCH 2018

STREET LIGHTING

Summary

1. The Panel will receive an overview on Street Lighting as part of its work programme.
2. Officers from the Economy and Infrastructure Directorate have been invited to attend.

Background

3. The Street Lighting service is led by Worcestershire County Council and delivered by the Council's Lighting Maintenance Contractor who is responsible for maintaining all of the County's street lights.
4. Worcestershire County Council has a duty of care under the Highways Act 1980 to maintain a safe highways network, including street lighting and illuminated signs and bollards. This is not a duty to provide lighting, but it does mean that all lighting and sign installations must be maintained in a safe condition.
5. The street lighting service in Worcestershire provides benefits to the communities of the County in many ways. Reduction in night-time accidents and reducing both crime and in the minds of many people, fear of crime. The economic development contribution to towns in the County cannot be under-estimated, good street lighting engenders a feeling of well-being by enabling people to continue their business and leisure activities during the hours of natural darkness. Recent Public Realm initiatives in many of our towns have included elements to upgrade the street lighting and this helps to improve the night-time environment.
6. The Worcestershire County Council street lighting service consists of a small team of specialist staff with expertise to enable effective operation of the service and our current term street lighting contractor, Prysmian Cables and Systems Limited, based in Stourport.
7. The street lighting service work with other highway teams within the Economy and Infrastructure Directorate when working on projects, highway safety schemes and new developments together with regular engagement with the Liaison Engineers regarding street lighting matters raised by Local Members.

Aims and Objectives

8. The aim of Worcestershire County Council's Street Lighting service is to create a safer and more secure night-time environment by providing an energy efficient and cost effective system of street lighting and illuminated signs.

9. The objectives of the street lighting service are primarily to:

- Ensure the safety of the public, contractors and staff
- Provide a high quality, cost effective service. All new lighting installations are specified to use the latest energy saving and effective LED lanterns resulting in energy saving and reduction of the carbon footprint
- Reduce crime and fear of crime
- Minimise environmental impact. The new LED lanterns provide very controlled distributions of light with almost zero light loss above the horizontal plane
- Implement best practice in systems and operations.

Street Light Part Night Switch Off

10. The Street Lighting Initiative, or 'part night switch off' as it became known, was approved by Cabinet in February 2014 and was rolled out across Worcestershire in residential areas with the project being completed at the end of 2016.

11. On average two out of three of the less efficient sodium lamps have been switched off between midnight and 6am (GMT). In total approximately 16,000 lights have been subject to this initiative resulting in a reduction in the use of energy (and therefore savings) and savings in carbon emission charges.

12. It is important to note that major traffic routes were exempt from the project. On average one in three lamps in the areas subject to switch off remain lit all night and these tend to be at more strategic locations such as on bends, junctions, near steps and other key sites. The objective was to achieve savings whilst still retaining a reasonably consistent and spaced distribution from the lights left on.

Low Pressure Sodium Lanterns

13. Low pressure sodium (SOX) lighting was introduced in the 1970's and quickly replaced the previous lamp type based on mercury. SOX lamps provided a 50% decrease in energy compared to other lighting around at the time. Quickly it became the standard light source in the UK and Europe.

14. Since this time alternative light sources have been developed including High Pressure Sodium, ceramic metal halide and most recently LED. Both High Pressure Sodium and ceramic metal halide have very limited application compared to LED.

15. Over 20,000 of the County's lanterns are Low Pressure Sodium (SOX). As part of the existing Term Lighting Contract these lanterns are bulk changed after a set number of hours to prevent (as far as possible) 'bulb failures'. This has proven to be the most cost effective way of dealing with maintenance of this type of lantern.

16. With the advent of LED lanterns, the call for these SOX Lanterns has diminished and the, already limited number of, manufacturers have significantly reduced the number they produce to the point where there are implications on supply, even with significant advanced orders being placed by our Contractor. Working with the

Contractor we have agreed a new interim maintenance strategy to cope with any 'outages' which replaces these SOX lanterns with an LED equivalent.

17. There are a significant number of SOX lanterns atop of steel columns that are in good or reasonable condition. It is therefore feasible and cost effective to simply change the lantern to an LED type and retain the existing column.

18. The recent approval of the Highways Infrastructure Investment Fund makes provision for the roll out of two significant LED energy saving initiatives over the next three years. The first helps deal with the ageing concrete column issue (see below) in addition to facilitating new lanterns, with the other replacing existing (relatively) low efficiency lanterns with new LED stock on existing steel columns.

Concrete Column Replacement Programme

19. As of August 2017 Worcestershire County Council maintains 49,819 lighting columns. Of this, 10,884 (23.7%) are shown on the inventory as constructed of concrete around steel reinforcing. These were predominantly installed in the 1960's and 70's.

20. Recognising the service life, a detailed survey of the concrete columns on the Worcestershire County Council network is nearing completion. The condition of the stock is being ranked from 1 (good condition) to 5 (requires immediate attention).

21. The detailed programme of replacing the concrete columns with both a new steel column and an LED lantern will be largely driven by the requirement to deal with Grade 4 and 5 stock.

22. This programme is being developed (with grade 5 columns being dealt with immediately) and will be finalised following the completion of the survey.

Programme

23. The programme for this work will revolve around three main areas:

- Higher powered (55 watt) lanterns
- Those columns that are in difficult areas to access (reduce future maintenance costs)
- Those groups of columns that are showing signs of deterioration (based on the rolling programme of routine condition inspections carried out).

24. Overall a balance will need to be achieved between maximum power savings and replacement of lower wattage concrete columns.

Purpose of the Meeting

25. The Panel is asked to:

- consider and comment on the information provided
- determine whether any further information or scrutiny is required at this stage
- agree any comments to highlight to the Cabinet Member.

Contact Points

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Email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

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: Cabinet on 6 February 2014, available [here](#)

Minutes and Agendas are available on the Council's website at

<http://worcestershire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=388>

**Worcestershire County Council
Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel: Work Plan 2017 – 2018**

Topics in italics require further discussion and scoping

Meeting date	Topic and Objective	Date added	Approach	Who
15 September 2017	<p>Highways Development Control Department (Section 278s/106s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update is to be given on the 10 point improvement plan of the Highways Development Control Processes on speeding up the technical approval of developer-funded Highways infrastructure. (Section 278s/106s) <p>The key points the committee is looking to understand are:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to get developer-funded Highways Infrastructure built quicker for the benefit of residents and road users? • How can Network Control help ensure the planning conditions imposed on developers to build certain Highways infrastructure by certain key times (ie before the houses are occupied) are met?. • How will Highway Liaison Engineers help members be informed and involved with major developer-funded Highways infrastructure in their division at planning stage, and once planning has been approved? 	29/6/17	Public meeting Further work possible	Nigel Hudson, Head of Strategy and Infrastructure Cllr Alan Amos, Cabinet Member for Highways
3 October 2017 – (Extra meeting added in additional to existing programme)	<p>Footways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • update on implementation of recommendations agreed from the interim scrutiny report • £6million additional funding – allocation and councillor involvement 	29/6/17	Public meeting Further work possible	Ian Bamforth, Highways Operations Manager Cllr Alan Amos, Cabinet Member for Highways
	<p>Cycle paths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to improve getting around the county, especially to work and school • how Local Transport Plan 4 will help 	29/6/17	Public meeting	Martin Rowe, Transport Policy and Development Officer Cycle group representatives – Honeybourne and Evesham Vale Cabinet Member/s

21 November 2017	Envirecover Waste Site – panel members are requested to attend the councillor induction visit	29/6/17	Visit	Richard Woodward, Waste Services Manager
29 November 2017	Broadband Update	Annual update	Public meeting	Rachel Hill, Strategic Commissioner of Major Projects Ste Ashton, Senior Project Manager BT Cllr Ken Pollock, Cabinet Member for Economy and Infrastructure
	Budget Scrutiny: reviewing the 2017/18 budget position for the Directorate of Economy and Infrastructure			Public meeting
8 January 2018	Cleaning programme and repair processes for gulleys and drains To see the operation and equipment used in keeping our roads clear of water at one of the Highway depots The key points the committee is looking to understand are:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do many drains seem to get blocked so regularly leading to water on the road and causing unsafe conditions? • How can the public help in identifying blocked drains? • How can the systems be improved to reduce the number of blocked drains? 	29/6/17	Panel meeting	Ian Bamforth, Highways Operations Manager Nick Twaite, Infrastructure Asset Manager Ringway
12 January 2018	Flooding Update including Annual Report	Annual Update and		Matt Maginnis, Floor Risk Manager Severn Trent, Environment Agency

		discussion with partners		Cllr Tony Miller, Cabinet Member for Environment
	Budget Scrutiny: proposed 2018/19 budget for the Directorate of Economy and Infrastructure			John Hobbs, Director of Economy and Infrastructure Finance Managers Wendy Pickering/Alison Rainey & Nick Alderman Cabinet Members for Communities, Economy and Infrastructure, Highways and Environment
7 March 2018	Highways England – its role and how it works with the Council on existing and future schemes	OSPB 7/11/17	Public meeting	Highways England WCC officers Invite all councillors
Page 9	Street Lighting – an update on LED roll-out, and other energy efficiency schemes such as switching of lighting	Panel 12/1/18		Nick Twaite, Infrastructure and Asset Manager
To be scheduled in 2018	Annual review of the Worcestershire Local Economic Partnership (LEP) contribution to all sectors of Worcestershire's economy – what is working and what more is needed.	Carried forward from 2016/17	Public meeting	Nigel Hudson, Head of Strategy and Infrastructure Worcs LEP Chamber of Commerce Federation of Small Businesses Cllr Ken Pollock, Cabinet Member for Economy and Infrastructure
	<i>How to improve getting around the County – in particular to work and school</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congestion • Cycling, footways, footpaths and bridle paths • Public transport • Working better together during highways works • Potential of speed camera technology • Use of 20mph speed limits 	Carried forward from 2016/17	<i>More scoping required</i>	Nigel Hudson, Head of Strategy and Infrastructure Cllr Ken Pollock, Cabinet Member for Economy and Infrastructure Cllr Alan Amos, Cabinet Member for Highways Cllr Tony Miller, Cabinet Member for Environment

	Local Transport Plan 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how plan proposals are implemented • aim to gain a better understanding of plans for short/medium/long-term 	29/6/17 panel meeting	Public meeting	Nigel Hudson, Head of Strategy and Infrastructure Cllr Ken Pollock, Cabinet Member for Economy and Infrastructure Cllr Alan Amos, Cabinet Member for Highways Cllr Tony Miller, Cabinet Member for Environment
To be scheduled in 2018	Asset Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Including lessons learned from Evesham Abbey Bridge project delays) 	29/6/17 panel meeting	Public meeting	Rachel Hill, Strategic Commissioner of Major Projects Nick Twaite, Infrastructure Asset Manager
	Transport and access to hospital – routes to rural hospitals and central hospitals	Continued from 2016/17	Public meeting	Paul Smith, Transport Commissioning Manager NHS

To be programmed:

Topic and objective	Date added
Residents zonal parking schemes and additional car parks	OSPB (18/7/17) – issue identified by previous year's budget scrutiny, which had generated income in other areas
<i>Buses</i>	Carried forward from 2016/17 and raised at Panel (15/9/17)
<i>Works on Highways</i> - Improving joined-up working between the various Utilities' and WCC Highways' works; so newly laid tarmac is not dug up within weeks of being laid!	
Capacity of Highways Engineers	(added by OSPB 18/7/17)