

**CABINET**  
**2 FEBRUARY 2017****UPDATE REPORT OF THE FOOTWAYS OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY TASK GROUP**

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**Relevant Cabinet Member**

Mr M J Hart

**Relevant Officer**

Director of Economy and Infrastructure

**Recommendation**

1. **The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways recommend that the Cabinet:**
  - (a) **receives the Update Report of the Footways Scrutiny Task Group; and**
  - (b) **notes the Report's findings and recommendation and adopts them as the way forward.**

**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 task group was created to examine in detail the issue of Footways.

4. 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 was therefore agreed that the task group would present this update report (attached as an Appendix) to the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) at the earliest opportunity.

**Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board**

5. The OSPB considered the Update Report on 18 January 2017. At that meeting, it was agreed that subject to a minor amendment to draft Recommendation 6, the Report should be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration. The final version is attached as an Appendix.

## **Supporting Information**

- Appendix - Footways Review: Draft Update Report of the Footways Scrutiny Task Group

## **Contact Points**

### County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

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### Specific Contact

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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

Agenda and Minutes of the County Council meeting on 13 November 2014

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