

## **ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 7 MARCH 2018**

### **HIGHWAYS ENGLAND**

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#### **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](http://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

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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 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>