

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY INQUIRY PROJECT OUTLINE

Review Topic: Highways issues

Objectives:

To investigate, consider and evaluate:

1. Provision of information:
From LCC: highways maintenance plan, gully rounds, asset renewal, tree pruning, notification of roadworks, gritting routes and grit bins, setting of speed limits in rural areas, creation of new residents parking schemes, highways comments on planning applications,.
From Chorley: street cleaning schedules.
2. Communication cycles – reporting, monitoring and feeding back on requests for service.
3. Consulting and influencing – gritting routes and grit bins. Future service aspirations: reactive highway repairs, enforcement on highways, including A boards. Meetings and consultation with utility companies.
4. Anomalies – order of tasks (i.e. grass cutting before gully cleaning), gully cleaning both sides of the same road. Where a section of grass is owned by different organisations negotiate one contractor to do all sections.

Desired Outcomes:

1. To improve the delivery of the highways service delivered by Lancashire County Council and Chorley Council for the residents of Chorley.
2. *To define operational tasks which can be actioned more efficiently.*
3. *To enhance the communication between Lancashire County Council, Chorley Council and Lancashire Locals.*
4. *To enhance the performance monitoring between Lancashire County Council, Chorley Council and Lancashire Locals.*

Terms of Reference:

1. To investigate, consider and evaluate topics within the objectives identified.
2. To make recommendations where appropriate.
3. To report findings and recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Equality and diversity implications:

1. Dropped kerbs generally.
2. Excess street furniture in the town centre.
3. Gritting, in the town centre and rural areas.

Risks:

1. That may initially be a negative impact on the relationship between Chorley Council and Lancashire County Council.
2. That there will be an expectation beyond the capacity to deliver.

Venue(s):

Town Hall, Chorley

Timescale: 4 months

Start: July 2009

Finish:

Information Requirements and Sources:

Documents/evidence: (what/why?)

Streetscene Services Agreement
Highways maintenance plan,
gully rounds,
tree pruning,
setting of speed limits in rural areas,
creation of new residents parking schemes,
street cleaning schedules.
Local Area Agreement.

Lancashire Locals terms of reference.
Highways Safety Inspection policy,
asset renewal,
notification of roadworks,
gritting routes and grit bins,
highways comments on planning applications,
Locality Plan.

Witnesses: (who, why?)

Executive Member (Neighbourhoods) – Councillor Eric Bell.
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport – County Councillor Keith Young.
Director of Environment – Jo Turton
District Partnership Officer – Sarah Palmer.
Assistant Chief Executive (Policy and Performance) – Lesley-Ann Fenton.
Corporate Director (Business) Jane Meek
Lancashire County Council Customer Services Manager -
Chorley Council Customer Services Manager – Asim Khan
Disability Forum Co-ordinator – Eileen Bee.

Consultation/Research: (what, why, who?)

Current Lancashire County Council and Chorley Council responsibilities.
Other scrutiny inquiries relating to Highways in Lancashire.
Contract performance monitoring.
Highways comments on planning applications.
The information process: from a fault being report right through to the call being signed off.

Site Visits: (where, why, when?)

The Hub, Lancashire County Council

Officer Support:

Lead Officer:

Martin Walls (Service Manager - Streetscene Services)

Ruth Rimmington (Democratic & Member Services Officer)

Likely Budget Requirements:

Purpose

£

Total

Target Body¹ for Findings/Recommendations

(Eg Executive Cabinet, Council, partner)

¹ All project outcomes require the approval of Overview and Scrutiny Committee before progressing