

1.	SUBJECT	SCRUTINY REVIEW ON HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE – Draft Scope
2.	COMMITTEE	Overview & Scrutiny
3.	MEMBERSHIP	<p>Councillor Ghazanfar Ali (Co-Chair, Scrutiny Lead Member for Community)</p> <p>Councillor Jean Lammiman (Co-Chair, Scrutiny Lead Member for Community)</p> <p>Councillor TBC</p> <p>Councillor TBC</p> <p>Councillor TBC</p> <p>Councillor TBC</p>
4.	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES/ OUTCOMES	<p>Aim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the review is to better understand and influence how Harrow’s schedule of highways work is prioritised so as to better inform, engage and consult with residents. <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish the nature of residents’ concern about the condition of roads in Harrow and other highways issues, as raised in the Residents’ Survey 2017. • To understand how Harrow’s schedule of planned highways maintenance works is formulated and understand the criteria, including financial, for determining in what way works are carried out. • To ascertain if and how the Council coordinates different types of planned works to roads and pavements. • To ascertain if and how utilities companies coordinate planned works with the council. • To investigate how council policies around dropped kerbs and enforcement impact upon the conditions of Harrow’s roads and pavements. • To examine the quality assurance around contractors’ performance on highways maintenance, including enforcement by the council of its contractual rights. • To understand how planned works and their progress are communicated to residents. • To understand the sources of funding and associated pressures, including TfL involvement, that affect Harrow’s highways maintenance programme.
5.	MEASURES OF SUCCESS OF REVIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer concerns about highways maintenance raised by residents with the council. • Residents are better informed about the council system for

		<p>reviewing and prioritising all highways maintenance and its programme of scheduled work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear understanding by councillors of the exact criteria for both patching repairs and for inclusion on planned maintenance programme.
6.	SCOPE	<p>The following council policies/strategies will be in the scope of the review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways Asset Management Plan • Planning policies • Enforcement strategy • Council system for reviewing and prioritising all highways maintenance defects <p>Evidence sources for the literature review will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents' Survey 2017 • Highways, traffic and asset management data – including Harrow highways annual programme of planned works for structural maintenance, and the programme for reactive maintenance • Annual condition surveys and information from highways inspectors' cyclical routine inspection regime • Highways asset condition national guidance set out in the 'Well Managed Infrastructure Code of Practice' • Transport for London responsibilities and funding streams • Highways maintenance contractors' performance • Research by national/regional thinktanks and lobbying organisations e.g. Local Government Association, London Councils, the AA • Benchmarking from neighbouring boroughs <p>Witnesses will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council officers and portfolio holders responsible for the relevant services • Community/residents' organisations • Community champions
7.	SERVICE PRIORITIES	<p>Choose from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a Better Harrow • Be more business-like and business-friendly • Protecting the Vulnerable
8.	REVIEW SPONSOR	TBC Venetia Reid-Baptiste, Divisional Director – Commissioning Services
9.	ACCOUNTABLE MANAGER	Rachel Gapp, Head of Policy
10.	SUPPORT OFFICER	David Eaglesham, Service Manager – Traffic, Highways & Asset Management
11.	ADMINISTRATIVE	Nahreen Matlib, Policy Team

	SUPPORT	
12.	EXTERNAL INPUT	The Review Group will seek the views and input of residents, community champions, relevant community organisations, pressure groups and utilities companies.
13.	METHODOLOGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature review • Challenge panel(s) • Site visits to 1) specific areas within the borough and 2) other boroughs, if benchmarking suggests this would be valuable
14.	EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS	The Review Group will consider, during the course of its work, how equality implications have been taken into account in current policy and practice and consider the possible implications of any changes it recommends. In undertaking the Challenge Panels, members and officers will consider their practices and how they can ensure all relevant stakeholders in the borough to have their voices heard.
15.	ASSUMPTIONS/ CONSTRAINTS	
16.	SECTION 17 IMPLICATIONS	N/A
17.	TIMESCALE	<p>To conclude by the end of the 2018/19 municipal year.</p> <p>Indicative timetable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop research – November/December 2018 • Initial work programming – early January 2019 • Site visits – January/February • Challenge panel(s) – February • Drafting of final report – by mid-March • Review Group members finalise report and recommendations – by end of March • Report and recommendations presented to O&S for endorsement – 9 April 2019
18.	RESOURCE COMMITMENTS	The Policy Team will provide a briefing and administrative support to the Review Group. The Policy Team will report recommendations to O&S; officers from the appropriate Service Area – Traffic and Highways - will provide a response to Cabinet and take forward any recommendations agreed by Cabinet.
19.	REPORT AUTHOR	Nahreen Matlib, Senior Policy Officer
20.	REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS	<p>Outline of formal reporting process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The relevant Divisional Director(s) and Portfolio Holder(s) will be consulted in the drafting of the final report and recommendations • Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee • Report referred to Cabinet

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officer response to Cabinet
	FOLLOW UP ARRANGEMENTS (proposals)	It is anticipated that Cabinet would consider any recommendations made (alongside the officers’ response) at the Cabinet meeting in [insert month], and responded to in [insert month].

Background

This is taken from scrutiny research paper on key strategic issues for scrutiny work programme 2018-22:

Condition of roadways and footpaths

The Harrow Resident Survey 2017 findings highlighted the condition of roadways and footpaths as one of residents’ top priorities for the borough, and it is also one of the key issues raised with local councillors.

The LGA states that councils fixed a pothole every 15 seconds last year, but says that funding cuts mean they are trapped in a cycle as they are only able to “patch up” roads. The Asphalt Industry Alliance has warned that prolonged under-investment, coupled with wetter winters, increased traffic and an ageing network, means that the resilience of local roads is at a low point, and that clearing the maintenance backlog is impossible without a significant increase in funding.

Government figures show that the amount spent on the maintenance of B roads, C roads and unclassified routes in 2004/05 was £2.46bn, but that reduced to £1.87bn in 2016/17, a fall of 24%. The LGA has highlighted a chronic need for more investment in local roads, stating that if the Government reinvested the equivalent of 2 pence per litre of existing fuel duty into local roads maintenance, it would generate £1bn a year for councils to spend on improving the entire local roads network.

In 2017 the Department for Transport committed £6bn for English councils to improve local roads over the current Parliament, in addition to a £50m-a-year fund specifically for tackling potholes.

The Harrow Ambition plan aims to keep the borough clean and green, and this includes monitoring and maintaining all the road surfaces in the borough and taking the initiative to reduce road accidents.