

Area North Committee – 27 October 2010

## 9. Highway Authority Half-Yearly Report – Area North

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### Purpose of the Report

The Report is to inform members of the work carried out by the Somerset County Highways services during from April 2010 and the remaining proposed work programme for the year.

### Public Interest

The report is to inform members of the work carried out by the County Highway Authority during the first half of this financial year and the remaining proposed work programme for the year.

### Recommendation

That members note and comment on the report

### Report

We are now halfway through the financial year. The first half is often a very busy one with money becoming available to carry out the inevitable backlog that occurs when resources run out during the previous year. However, we did manage our 2009-2010 budgets well which has left us in good stead for this year.

The three major routine seasonal functions carried out to date are surface dressing, grass cutting and weed killing. Surface dressing is the practice of applying a bitumen tack coat to the existing road surface and rolling in stone chippings. Surface dressing is highly effective and can bring significant improvements to the highway infrastructure. We have dressed over 600,000m<sup>2</sup> of carriageway across Area North this year.

Grass cutting as ever is a difficult task to carry out to the satisfaction of all. As you can appreciate, our works are largely governed by resource. With a highway network exceeding 3500km in length, the size of the task is significant. The County Council therefore has a policy and procedures are in place to ensure the work is carried out in the most safe, effective and economic way. In a world of ever increasing risk assessment and claim/liability scenarios, the policy must take into account the range of road classifications across the network and prioritises them accordingly.

The programme commenced on 4<sup>th</sup> May with A and B roads being cut within three weeks. This was then followed by special sites (accident history sites, restricted visibility sites) which were completed within a week. C and D roads were attended to for 7 weeks. Finally the second cut on the A and B network was undertaken. The programme was largely completed on time on the 13<sup>th</sup> August.

Members will be aware that the weed killing function is shared between District and County. SSDC are responsible for the towns and larger urban areas. SCC sprays the remaining villages and kerbed lengths on the A and B Network. The operation has gone well this year with very little adverse comment.

Many of the structural maintenance schemes for this year have been completed and are listed below:

#### Structural Schemes Completed 2010/11

Aller	A372 Beer Road	C/way Resurfacing
Long Sutton	Martock Road	C/way Resurfacing
Somerton	Sutton Road	C/way Resurfacing
Huish Episcopi	Muchelney Road	C/way Resurfacing
Somerton	Rocky Hill	C/way Resurfacing
Somerton	Ashen Cross to Lodge Hill	C/way Resurfacing
High Ham	Nythe Road	C/way Resurfacing
Kingsbury Episcopi	Lower Burrow Road	Drainage
Curry Mallet	Higher Street	Drainage
Long Sutton	Cross Lane	Drainage
Long Sutton	Langport Road	Drainage
Somerton	Pye Corner	Drainage
Somerton	The Millands	Footways

As it currently stands, the schemes still to be carried out are listed below:

#### Outstanding Structural Schemes 2010/11

Curry Rivet	A378 Townsend/High Street	C/way Resurfacing
Langport	The Hill	C/way Resurfacing
High Ham	Village Green	C/way Resurfacing
Wearne	Whitehill	C/way Resurfacing
High Ham	Village Green	C/way Resurfacing
Martock	Moorlands Park	C/way Micro-surfacing
Montacute	Townsend	C/way Micro-surfacing
Martock	Ashfield Park Estate	Footways

Somerset County Council were successful in it's bid to the Department for Transport for additional funds to undertake extensive carriageway patching works to areas of the highway network where winter damage is evident. Phase 1, which covers 30 sites and approximately 10000m<sup>2</sup>, started on the 1<sup>st</sup> October and is due to be completed within the month. A second phase will be undertaken later in the year.

The preparation for this years winter maintenance programme has now started. Our salt supply for the upcoming season will be delivered to the depot shortly. Ploughing routes are being revisited following the challenges of last year. Once salt stocks have arrived, an opportunity for collection will be provided to members and/or parishioners.

If grit bins or salt bags are being considered at new locations, can the members and/or parishioners please confirm these positions. It may also be beneficial to confirm previous locations to ensure that these areas are not missed.

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