

Area North Committee – 14 December 2011

## 9. Highway Authority Report – Area North

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### Purpose of Report

The Report is to inform members of the work carried out by the County Highway Authority so far this financial year, 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 proposed work programmed for the remainder of the year.

### Recommendation

That members note and comment on the report.

### Report

The two major routine seasonal functions carried out to date are surface dressing and grass cutting. Surface dressing is the practice of applying a bitumen tack coat to the existing road surface and rolling in stone chippings. Generally this highway treatment is not well received by the public, however, when carried out correctly it is highly effective and can bring significant improvements to the highway infrastructure.

Grass cutting as ever is a difficult task to carry out to the satisfaction of all. As can be appreciated, 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 16<sup>th</sup> May with A and B roads being cut within four weeks. C and D roads were attended to for seven weeks. Finally the second cut on the A and B network was undertaken. The programme was largely completed by September.

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

### Structural Schemes Completed 2011/12

Somerton	Behind Berry	C/way Resurfacing
Martock	Stoke Road	C/way Resurfacing
Curry Rivel	School Street	C/way Resurfacing
Huish Episcopi	Portland Road	Footway
Stoke Sub Hamdon	Hamdon Close	Footway
Martock	Long Load Road	Footway
Martock	Ashfield Park	Footway
Ilton	Penny's Meade/Kings Lear	Footway
Seavington St Michael	Barrington Main	Drainage
Chilthorne Domer	Vagg Hollow	Drainage
Curry Rivel	Red Hill (Badgers)	Earthworks

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

### Outstanding Structural Schemes 2011/12

Huish Episcopi	A372 Langport Road	C/way Resurfacing
Tintinhull	Head Street	C/way Resurfacing
Martock	Ashfield Park	C/way Micro
Somerton	West Street	C/way Resurfacing
Chilthorne Domer	Vagg Hollow	Drainage
Tintinhull	Queen Street	Drainage
Stoke Sub Hamdon	High Street (retaining wall)	Earthworks

### Department for Transport Winter Damage Funding 2011/2012

Somerset County Council was successful in its bid to the Department for Transport for additional funds to undertake extensive carriageway resurfacing works. Funds have been provided to target areas of the highway network that have deteriorated as a result of the harsh winter. Completed schemes include:

Fivehead	Smiths Lane	C/way Resurfacing
Curry Mallet	Harris Lane	C/way Resurfacing
Somerton	B3165 South Hill	C/way Resurfacing
Isle Abbotts	Higher Woodlands	C/way Resurfacing

### Winter maintenance

The preparation for this years winter maintenance programme has now started. Our salt supply for the upcoming season has been delivered to the depot. Ploughing routes have been revisited following the challenges of last year.

Local parishes have been invited to collect their allocation of grit bags. Whilst many have taken up this offer, several parishes have chosen not to.

If grit bins are being considered at new locations, members and/or parishes are requested to please confirm these positions as soon as possible as the filling of bins has now commenced. It may also be beneficial to confirm previous locations to ensure that these areas are not missed.

For further information about winter maintenance: [www.somerset.gov.uk/winterservice](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/winterservice)