

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

MONDAY, 23 JULY 2001 AT 10.00 A.M.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 23 JULY 2001 AT 2.15 P.M.

Agenda Item No.

7

STATUS REPORT ON HIGHWAY CONDITIONS

Author:- Mike Palmer

Executive Member:- Iris Tarry

1. Purpose of the report

To consider a proposal for action to address the rapid deterioration of parts of the highway network following the recent unprecedented effects of the winter weather, in the light of the comments of the Environment Select Committee.

2. Summary

3.1 The Environment Select Committee at its meeting on 10 July 2001 considered a report (copy attached at Appendix A) on the adverse effects that recent spells of inclement weather have had on Hertfordshire's highway network.

3.2 The Executive Member made a proposal to the Select Committee (Attached at Appendix B)

3.3 The Select Committee supported the Executive Member's proposal subject to certain suggested amendments. The Executive Member now makes the following proposal to the Cabinet:

1. That the County Council should take emergency action to address the financial consequences of dealing with the aftermath of the recent adverse weather on the highway;
2. That the County Council should make strenuous representations to the Government Office for the East of England in order to secure a significant share of the Supplementary Credit Approvals being made available nationally to ameliorate the impact of flood damage to the Highway network;

3. That the proposal to delay £2.5m of programmed schemes from the LTP sustainable programme 2001/ 02 and to defer £0.3m of advanced design be agreed and that the Executive Members for Environment and Resources work with officers to investigate additional sources of funding from elsewhere in the Authority to address the unprecedented damage to the Highway;
4. That the Director keep under active review the programming of schemes to be deferred and allocates revised start dates as soon as practical over the programme period 2001 / 2 / 03, depending upon the extent of Supplementary Credit Approvals received;
5. That the Director keep the Executive Member, Select Committee Spokesmen and local members informed of any changed scheme programmes, and
6. That the County Council's need for extraordinary action should be reported in the LTP Annual Progress Report and clearly communicated to the Government Office for the East of England, District Council's, other key interested parties and the public affected by any scheme deferrals.
7. That the possibility of making additional funding available to address the cost of refurbishment work to restore the condition of damaged roads experiencing accelerated due to the unprecedented weather conditions, and to compensate for delays in the implementation of schemes should be explored as part of the County Funded Capital Programme for 2002/3 and beyond.

3.4 The Select Committee's Minutes record their detailed discussion of this item.