

EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION



REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Growth and Development
LEAD OFFICERS:	Director of Environment and Operations
DATE:	03/06/2019

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	Growth and Development
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WARD/S AFFECTED:	All
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SUBJECT: Highway Maintenance Gully Cleaning Strategy

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Gully Cleaning Strategy has been developed to reflect the authority's commitment and focus to maintain the Highway in a safe condition, and to ensure it operates in an efficient manner to minimise the effects of surface water flooding. Approval of this document will allow and require the authority to continue to improve the manner in which it manages the highway drainage system.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Member:

1. Approves the Highway Maintenance Gully Cleaning Strategy.
2. Authorises its publication on the authority's website.
3. Authorises that the strategy is reviewed and updated, if necessary, within 24 months.

3. BACKGROUND

The Gully Cleaning Strategy provides the method of the Council's approach to the maintenance of the drainage system within the Borough. A systematic approach to the maintenance is increasingly seen as being vital to ensure that issues are resolved on a risk-priority basis and that all adopted gullies within the borough are attended on a 5-year cycle.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

As a unitary authority, the Council is not only the highway authority, but also the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). As highway authority, the Council currently maintains approximately 31000 gullies, 52 trash screens and all highway drainage pipes.

Over the years, revenue budgets have been insufficient to adequately maintain the existing drainage network and develop an accurate highway drainage asset record database. Efficient use of these limited and, at times, reducing budgets has been impaired by the lack of adequate drainage asset records.

This strategy aims to achieve a risk based approach and effective use of available recourses.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The strategy complements the existing highway management policy and allows improvements to the Council's management of the adopted highway network.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications of this updated strategy. This strategy is updated to provide the gully cleaning service within the existing budget constraints.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council has a duty under section 41 of the Highway Act 1980 to maintain the highway in a condition that is safe and fit for purpose. An important part of that maintenance relates to highway drainage systems and in particular the road gullies in the vehicular highways.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

No additional resources are required to comply with the strategy.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

10. CONSULTATIONS

All Councillors are consulted on an annual ward by ward gully cleaning programme. Councillors consult residents through local ward solution meetings.

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded and published if applicable.

VERSION:	1
CONTACT OFFICER:	Imran Munshi
DATE:	03/06/2019
BACKGROUND PAPER:	Appendix 1 Highway Maintenance Gully Cleaning Strategy