



# EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

<b>REPORT OF:</b>	Executive Member for Growth and Development
<b>LEAD OFFICERS:</b>	Director of Environment and Operations
<b>DATE:</b>	15 January 2020

<b>PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:</b>	Growth and Development
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<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	All
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<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Progress made on the Management of Highway Drainage Assets
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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To advise the Executive Member on progress made with the implementation of the recommendations of the 2012 HMEP Guidance for the period of April 2018 to March 2019.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

To note the report.

## 3. BACKGROUND

Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme (HMEP) guidance published 12 recommendations in 2012 relating to the management of highway drainage assets. In 2016, UK Roads Liaison Group (UKRLG) published guidance with further recommendations on drainage maintenance. In response of this, Highways published an action plan in 2017, with a gap analysis investigating the asset management position, ensuring compliance and demonstrating improvement.

The implementation of the 2017 action plan demonstrates compliance with the recommendations through adoption of the Highway Gully Cleaning Strategy.

## 4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

The biggest challenge facing BwDBC Highways in effectively managing highway drainage and local flood risk was defining and identifying the drainage assets location and condition. Much of this asset data collection has now been undertaken with an ongoing programme to complete.

From April 2018 to March 2019, the UK experienced periods of increased rainfall resulting in serious flooding incidents. Fortunately, Blackburn and Darwen experienced no major disruption, with only short-lived incidents of road closures with low-level impact.

Quantifying improvements is always challenging due to weather differences year on year, below please see a table comparing some key indicators as to drainage network management between the last 2 financial years, i.e. 2017/18 and 2018/19:

	Year 2017/18	Year 2018/19
Total Rainfall ( MM)	1377	1262
Number of Met Office Flood Warnings	19	17
Number of EXOR complaints from members of the public on drainage matter including blocked gullies and flooding incidents	544	452
Highway flooding incidents	3	1
Road closure due to flooding	1	0
Number of gullies being cleaned	6444	5837
Number of Critical gullies being cleaned (twice a year )	400	420
Number of property internal flooding	24	10

From this it can be seen that, despite similar rainfall levels, there has been a reduction in flooding complaints from members of the public, reduced flooding incidents and reduction in the internal flooding of property.

Whilst the number of actual gullies being cleansed dropped in 2018/19 this was due to a conscious decision to focus some effort on the cleansing and maintenance of critical inlet structures adjacent to the highway. Also it should be noted that whilst the overall number of gullies being cleansed dropped, the number of critical gullies cleansed did in fact increase. This is consistent with the decision to target resources more on those critical flood risk areas.

#### **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This report complements the existing highway management gully cleaning strategy and allows improvements to the Council's management of the adopted highway network.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications of this report.

#### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

## 8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

No additional resources are required.

## 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 and also any drainage maintenance works within their ward. 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.

<b>VERSION:</b>	<b>1</b>
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<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Imran Munshi
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<b>DATE:</b>	15 January 2020
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<b>BACKGROUND PAPER:</b>	Highway Maintenance Gully Cleaning Strategy
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