

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee

3 September 2019

Executive Response to the final report of the Rapid Scrutiny on using plastic waste as part of the council's road maintenance programme.

Purpose of the report

1. To present the response of the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste to the final report of the Rapid Scrutiny on using plastic waste as part of the council's road maintenance programme.

Background

2. Following a motion put forward at [Full Council on 22 May 2018](#) by Cllr Brian Mathew and Cllr Steve Oldrieve, calling for Wiltshire Council to undertake a feasibility study into the method of using waste plastics in road repair, resurfacing, and road building programmes, the matter was referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC).
3. At its meeting on [5 June 2018](#), OSMC resolved for the matter to be considered by the ESC, asking ESC to consider the proposal using the evidence available at its forthcoming meeting (on 26 June).
4. At its meeting 26 June, ESC considered a [briefing note](#) and resolved to establish a rapid scrutiny to **consider how feasible it would be for the council to use plastic waste as part of its road maintenance programme.**

Executive response to the Rapid Scrutiny's recommendations

(Please note numbers match the recommendations numbers in the [final report](#))

Recommendation No.3	That the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste considers reporting the outcome of the trials for the council's use of recycled materials in road surfacing project to ESC, or a relevant task group, when appropriate. If opportune, this could be included in the Highways Service annual report to ESC.
Reason for recommendation	This would provide the committee with comparative information when it considers the outcome of the national trials.

Cabinet Member	Cllr Bridget Wayman
Executive response	Agreed.

Recommendation No.4	<p>That the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste agrees with ESC the best way(s) in which the committee, within available resources, can be kept informed of local, national and international developments and innovations from the different groups and organisations focusing on highways and environmental issues, including the use of plastic in road maintenance.</p> <p>This could be included in the Highways Service annual report to ESC or in interim briefing notes from officers following attendance at meetings of these groups and organisations.</p>
Reason for recommendation	This would enable the Environment Select Committee to monitor the council's pro-activeness in considering more eco-friendly approaches to road maintenance and to ensure that the council (and committee) remains aware of innovations and approaches considered by the highway industry.
Cabinet Member	Cllr Bridget Wayman
Executive response	Agreed, although the Highways Service annual report is not considered the best way to impart this information as it is reporting on the previous year's activities and performance.

Recommendation No.5	<p>That the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste agrees with ESC the best way(s) in which the committee can be informed of progress on the Smart Cities project, with a focus on the Cumbria trial (plastic roads). Based on the outcome the committee may wish to ascertain if any of the technologies tested, including the use of plastic in roads, should be considered by the council for use on its roads, car parks or as part of its road maintenance.</p>
Reason for recommendation	This would enable the council to remain abreast with eco-friendly technology to future proof UK highways.
Cabinet Member	Cllr Bridget Wayman

Executive response	Agreed.

Other Comments from the Executive

Proposal

5. To note the executive response to the **Final Report – Rapid Scrutiny on using plastic waste as part of the council's road maintenance programme.**

Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste

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