COMMITTED TO QUALITY - THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE APPROACH TO BEST VALUE

Service Plan 2001-2002:

Name of Service Plan Area: Highways & Bridge Engineering Service Plan Ref: ES 10

Part 1 Description of service

Purpose of service

To improve the County's highway network and maintain the highway structures. Provide technical highways advice to developers and negotiate off-site highway works. Provide District Councils with highway and planning information on local land searches and enquiries.

What are the statutory parameters that regulate how the service operates?

- There is a statutory duty to ensure that the highway is safe for the user.
- Under the Highways Act the County Council has a duty to ensure that where development affects the highway, the impact on safety, convenience and capacity is minimised.
- District Councils have a statutory duty to keep a Land Charges Register, which relies on the County Council providing highways and county planning information.

Chairman of Policy & Resources 2001/02 Policy Steer(s) relevant to the service

- 7. Beyond seeking efficiency gains the Council will maintain and if possible expand its current support for Highways Maintenance. The Council expects service plan options to be delivered which show how resources . . . link with resources made available through the Local Transport Plan.
- 9. In respect of Capital Investment, the council expects service options to come forward which: . . . cover existing commitments . . . invest in protecting its building and highways maintenance needs . . .

Resource summary	2001-02
Budget £m	£254,113

Volume of service (2001/2)	
Number of customers/users: Number and location of sites Number of staff (FTE)	 All users of the County's highway network. Statutory Undertakers, e.g. British Telecom, gas, water, electricity Transport Authorities, e.g. Railtrack, British Waterways, London Underground The County Council as planning authority, and District Councils as local planning authority Developers, their consultants and members of the public, resident or potentially resident in the County The Environment Agency, the Land Registry, Thames Valley Police Authority, Hyder Consulting Limited All in County Hall TTE

Part 2 Performance of Service

Current performance (in relation to 2000-01 Service Plan outcomes and target

THREE YEAR OUTCOME	MEASURE OR INDICATOR	PERFORMANCE 2000/1	TARGET 2001/2	TARGET 2004/5
1. Satisfactory responses to the District Councils and others on highway development control matters 2(b), 10(a)	%age response of all District Planning Applications within 3 weeks of receipt	74.8% at 30.11.00	75% within 3 weeks of receipt	
2. Provide information to members of the public about County Council policies as they affect individual properties 4(a)	%age of all Local Land Charge Search enquiries responded to by the day after they are received	96% at 30.11.00	95%	
3. Keep the highway open to traffic. 10(b)	Adherence to bridge strengthening programme set out in the LTP (vol 4 Table 28) with priorities to A-roads, and then B-roads	Strengthening programme progressing to slowly revised programme with moderate slippage	Complete work on A418 Oxford Road railway bridge. Commence work on: A40 Wycombe Marsh culvert A4128 Gt Missenden railway bridge To bring all A road bridges (except one) to 40T capacity	
4. To relieve minor roads and villages and towns of through traffic by providing major local bypasses and principal road improvements 10(b)	Adherence to the LTP programme for principal road improvements. Volume 3 - Section 2	Progress continues to programme	Stoke Hammond & Linslade Western bypass: Public Inquiry decision – confirmation of CPO and SRO's. Finalise detailed design	

THREE YEAR OUTCOME	MEASURE OR INDICATOR	PERFORMANCE 2000/1	TARGET 2001/2	TARGET 2004/5
		Programme of works initiated, but delayed due to foot and mouth outbreak delaying survey work	A418 Improvements and Wing Bypass: Commence preliminary design and set up Panel to guide project	

Project Outcome	Key Stages	By When	
Leading jointly with ES19:			
Planning & Transportation 4 The quality of life of residents living in Stoke Hammond and Linslade is improved as a result of the permission obtained to build the Western Bypass Scheme. 10(a)	 Formal commitment from developers on the provision of the Northern Link of the Stoke Hammond Bypass. Agree method of funding with DETR Cabinet approval. Publish the Compulsory Purchase 	March 2001 April 2001	
	and Side Road Orders.Public Inquiry.	October 2001	
Contributing to:	Fublic inquity.		

Part 3 For more information

Associated County Council Business Plans, and links with other Service Plans or Statutory Plans

Roads and Bridges Business Plan T Rajkumar Highways Development Control Business Plan P Waldron Land Charges Business Plan Ann Atkins

When is the service due for a Best Value Root and Branch Review?

The Service was the subject of a root and branch review in 1999, and considered by the Strategy Panel in October 1999. P & R agreed that:

- 1. Alternative ways of providing the Council's Highways Development Control and Local Land Charges Services be not examined but that a report be made to the Senior Manager's Group on future provision of a Geographical Information System:
- 2. The current arrangements for the Highways and Bridges client side (i.e. role and size) be further examined

The Highways and Bridges service element will be further considered as part of the Roads Best Value Review, which started recently.

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