



Title: 'Programme for Maintaining the Highway Asset'

To: Chesham Local Area Forum

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Recommendations

1. **Chesham Local Area Forum is recommended to NOTE:**

- The principles for compiling works programmes.
- The 2009/10 gully cleaning programme for the Chiltern & South Bucks Area. See attachment A
- The spreadsheet showing the list of works that are either completed or at the ordered stage since 1st April 2009 for the Chesham Area. See attachment B
- Members of the Chesham LAF are encouraged to identify areas of concern in respect of highway maintenance issues through their Local Area Technician.

Introduction

In these times of diminishing budgets, it is more important than ever that this Authority shows that it is getting the Best Value for Money. To this end, the new Alliance is currently setting up new ways of working utilising the new technology and innovative materials that are now available from within our Organisation.

In the past each Area Office carried out works on the whole, in isolation, using local area highways maintenance budgets which had been allocated mainly on the length of the differing categories of road in each area. This "silo" style of working did not necessarily produce the best value for money, hence the move towards Countywide programmes of work which gives a much better value by utilising economies of scale, allowing more works to be carried out for the same money.

The other major change in working methods is the move from reactive work maintenance, whereby work is only carried out once a fault has developed, to a more preventative system of works based on the use of Asset Management Plans. This allows us to manage the Asset better through a joined up approach. For example, if reactive maintenance requiring traffic management is required, then we will ensure that any cyclical and planned maintenance is also carried out using the same traffic management facilities.

In the short term, it can be difficult to realise the benefits and savings made in moving to this type of system as some works appear to take longer. However, it has been shown in other areas, both in this country and abroad that this is the most cost effective and efficient way to manage or reducing budgets.

At this stage of the new contract, we are still putting the new procedures into place that will give us the full benefits of the above systems. We are currently still using some of the old systems, and are introducing the new methods as they come on line.

A more detailed explanation and discussion can be had at the meeting on the 13th October.

Local Area Technicians:

The Local Area Technicians responsible for the Chesham LAF area is Mike Barber. He is based in the C&SB Area Office and can be contacted on 0845 230 2882.