

Title of Report:	Proposed review – dealing with potholes and drain covers
Report to be considered by:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission
Date of Meeting:	22 November 2011

Purpose of Report: To outline to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission proposed Terms of Reference for a review into the Council’s approach to filling potholes and attending sunken drain covers.

Recommended Action: Amend, if necessary, and approve the Terms of Reference for the review.

Resource Management Working Group Chairman	
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Executive Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At the Council meeting of 22 September 2011, a motion was carried for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission (OSMC) to carry out a review into the way that the Council deals with pot holes. This paper reminds the Commission of the motion and sets out proposed Terms of Reference and a suggested methodology for the review.

2. Motion to the Council

- 2.1 At the Council meeting of 22 September 2011, Councillor Woodhams proposed the motion

The Council appreciates that the last two winters have caused damage to our road network across the district.

Nevertheless the Council's approach to filling potholes and attending to sunken drain covers needs urgent investigation. The reputation of the District

is important to all of us but at present some people are questioning the quality of our road surfaces.

Furthermore, as the potholes keep reappearing, there is not only a major risk to the safety of motorists, bikers and cyclists, there is also the high cost of vehicle repairs.

Other Councils use methods and materials in fixing potholes that could provide better value for money. Is the Council achieving best value for taxpayer's money? The Council could be making savings through not having to revisit and re-repair sites, as well as reducing the number of insurance claims received. By examining this issue we can reassure the public that the Council, officers and contractors are carrying out the work to the best of their ability, whilst looking at any room for improvement.

This Council therefore agrees to refer the methodology of repairing potholes and attending to sunken drain covers to the Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission at the earliest opportunity."

- 2.2 The motion was carried.

3. Proposed Terms of Reference for the review

- 3.1 It is proposed that the OSMC establishes a time limited task group to review the Council's approach to filling potholes and attending sunken drain covers; and in particular:

- The systems and processes currently in place;
- Alternative operational models and practices in use elsewhere;
- The most effective method of obtaining value for money; and
- Report to the OSMC thence the Executive with recommendations as appropriate.

4. Operation and delivery

- 4.1 The task group would comprise 3 Conservative Members and 1 Liberal Democrat and be supported by the Scrutiny and Partnerships Manager and Policy Officer (Scrutiny Support). Technical expertise would be provided from officers in Highways and Transport.
- 4.2 Due to staff availability limitations, the task group would not begin its work until the review into activities for young people has concluded and would return to report to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission by April 2012.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 It is recommended that Members of the Commission amend, if necessary, and approve the Terms of Reference for the review.

5.2

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report

Consultees

Local Stakeholders: None

Officers Consulted: Head of Highways and Transport

Trade Union: N/A