

North Walsall Area Panel

Tuesday, 7 July 2015

Highway Maintenance Prioritisation

Cabinet approved the Highway Maintenance Strategy for the next three years at its meeting of 18 March 2015. This introduced a new scored system for prioritising Highway Maintenance schemes across the borough. The background and principles of this approach are given in the report itself which can be viewed at:

[Cabinet Report March 2015 - Highway Maintenance Strategy](#)

Chapter 3.15 of the Cabinet report states:

“3.15 The proposed matrix incorporates the ability for the Area Partnerships to influence the ranking of schemes and further consultation with Partnership Chairs and Managers will take place in March/early April. One proposal is to give the partnerships the ability to credit up to 100 points either to a single scheme or divide the 100 points across a number of schemes identified for their areas. The delegated authority to amend the programme includes the ability to accommodate the local priorities identified through this route.”

The issue was discussed at the Area Panel Chairs meeting on the 19 March. The agreement reached at that meeting was that rather than have 100 points per Area Panel it would be more equitable to award 50 points per ward. This was agreed and has now been incorporated into the scoring matrix attached. Also attached is the list of identified highway maintenance schemes.

With available budgets it will not be possible to undertake all these maintenance schemes in the next three years hence the need for a robust and transparent prioritisation system. As stated in the Cabinet report it is important to incorporate local priorities and the purpose of this report is to seek Area Panels input.

It was originally intended to incorporate Area Panel scores into this year's maintenance programme. However it is acknowledged that the allocation process is not straightforward and will take some time to complete. The annual highway maintenance programme for 2015/2016 is at an advanced stage of delivery, it is therefore proposed to implement the Area Panel scoring into the 2016/2017 programme. The programme is determined in February of each year so it is important that each Area Panel provide their scoring to officers prior to this date.

In Summary:

1. The Area Panels are asked to score the identified schemes to reflect their local knowledge and priorities.
2. There are 50 points available per ward.
3. These points can be awarded to one scheme or divided across a number of schemes.
4. The more points awarded to a scheme the greater influence this will have on its relative priority.

Recommendations

That the North Walsall Area Panel:

- Note the report and identified schemes
- Provide officers with their scoring, prior to February of each year

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