

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 14 September 2017

Report of the Head of Asset Management

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
All

Trash Screen Code of Practice

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

The County Council as Highway Authority is responsible for ensuring that its highway and associated assets are maintained in a safe condition and to an appropriate standard.

The Trash Screen Code of Practice which is set out at Appendix 'A' outlines the procedures the county council will adopt to inspect clean and maintain its trash screens. The code of practice also outlines the methodology used to place each trash screen into a hierarchy which will be used when heavy rain forecasts are received to carry out non-routine response visits pre event, during and post event.

Recommendation

The Cabinet is recommended to approve the adoption of the Trash Screen Code of Practice, as set out at Appendix 'A'.

Background and Advice

Trash screens are generally installed on the ends of culverts for two main reasons:

- Reduce the amount of trash and debris entering the culvert where it could cause damage and/or a blockage;
- Prevent unauthorised access to the culvert;

Whilst a properly designed screen can reduce or even eliminate the probability of debris blockage, trash screens themselves can cause severe problems and lead to localised flooding problems arising from a blockage of the screen.

It is anticipated that the implementation of this Code of Practice will ensure that trash screens:

- Perform as designed;
- Are fit for purpose;
- Provide value for money;
- Are maintained on regular basis;
- Minimise both the flood and general health and safety risks

To try and reduce the consequences of flooding should a trash screen become blocked and cause localised flooding a risk matrix has been devised to place each trash screen into one of the following categories:

- High – risk of flooding internal property;
- Medium - risk of flooding roads /highway;
- Low – none of the above.

The code of practice also outlines the methodology used to place each trash screen into a hierarchy based on the above categories which will be used when heavy rain forecasts are received to carry out non-routine response visits pre event, during and post event.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

No significant risks have been identified in relation to the proposals contained within this report.

Financial

There are no financial implications as a result of this report. Any expenditure will be managed within the existing revenue budget.

Legal

Failure to maintain trash screens may result in damage claims from residents arising from flooding possibly caused by trash screens that have not been maintained appropriately. A Code of Practice should not seek to indicate a level of action which the authority may find difficult to meet but be reasonable and consistent. It should also be measured and appropriate.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None		
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
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