

**By:** Nick Chard – Cabinet Member, Environment Highway & Waste  
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**To:** Environment, Highways & Waste Policy Overview & Scrutiny  
Committee – 4 November 2010

**Subject:** Planned Carriageway Maintenance

**Classification:** Unrestricted

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**Summary:** This report informs Members of the new ‘Planned Carriageway Maintenance Guide’. The guide provides a concise overview of how Kent Highway Services manages planned carriageway maintenance works in an easily understood format and has been produced for Council Members and the residents of Kent.

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## 1. Introduction

Kent Highway Services new ‘Planned Carriageway Maintenance Guide’ is a concise document that explains how we invest in our roads, plan for the future and undertake preventative treatments to avoid costly repairs. The document outlines what causes roads to deteriorate, how roads are assessed and the range of treatments that are available. The document gives greater understanding of how we look after one of our most valuable assets, our roads

## 2. Key Points

Sites for inclusion in the annual programmed carriageway maintenance works are selected using a number of national and Kent Highway Services documents. These technical documents tend to be rather lengthy, written in a technical language and are often difficult for non-highway professionals to digest.

The road network in Kent has an impact on everyone who lives, works and travels within or through the County. It is the single most valuable physical asset that the County Council is responsible for maintaining. As well as the costs associated with its replacement its value must be considered in the context of the reliance that businesses and individuals place upon it in their daily activities and lives. Everyone within Kent has an interest in the way that the network is maintained in a safe and reliable condition.

The Planned Carriageway Maintenance Guide (shown in Appendix 1) provides this information in a suitable format. It identifies the maintenance issues and explains why certain maintenance techniques are used rather than others. The guide describes the value of timely preventative maintenance techniques, such as surface dressing, which are essential elements to maintaining the integrity of the road network.

## **5. Recommendations**

Members are asked to note the Planned Carriageway Maintenance Guide.

## **6. Background documents**

- Transport Asset Management Plan
- Well Maintained Highways – Code of Practise

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