

By: Mr J Burr, Director Of Kent Highway Services

To: Cabinet Scrutiny Committee – 8 December 2010

Subject: Gully Emptying Schedules – Briefing Note

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(1) As part of the ongoing efficiency and savings review within Kent Highway Services and a specific focus on ensuring that Members receive the information they require, I have met with the Chairman of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee and agreed a different approach to the long standing gully emptying schedule action.

(2) With immediate effect gully emptying will be undertaken on a planned basis, and not as a purely reactive service. As part of this planned approach we will be collecting information as to the required future cleansing frequency, but this will be of secondary importance to the main priority of ensuring that the maximum number of gullies are cleaned each day, thus reducing future drainage problems and increasing value for money.

(3) A reactive capability will be retained to respond to emergency situations. This will also ensure that we are tackling priority customer calls. This capability will be dynamic with crews taken as necessary from planned work and returned as soon as possible when the issues are resolved.

(4) KHS has been compiling a list of local drainage 'hot spots' that require 'special' attention and increased priority. Many of these locations have already had system jetting or necessary repair works undertaken with about 1500 localised flooding problems resolved in 2009/10 and 650 done so far this year. These hotspots are now being monitored to ensure that the problems do not reoccur and are now on the planned gully schedules with priorities as necessary. It has been agreed with the Chairman that the list of known 'hot spots' would be sent to Members so that they can review them and highlight any other areas within their respective wards that they are aware of that need to have a specific focus.

(5) The list of known locations will be sent to members of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee before the December meeting so that this approach can be discussed before the rest of the KCC members are contacted with the information for their respective areas.