

To Nick Chard, Cabinet Member, Environment Highways and Waste
By: Norman Bateman, Head of Technical Services
Subject: Signs & Road Markings Technical Directive
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

This report seeks approval from the Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste to approve the Signs & Road Markings Technical Directive.

For decision

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Kent Highway Services (KHS) provides and maintains traffic signs, road markings and road studs to assist with road safety and provide guidance and information to road users on how to use the road network.
- 1.2 Signs and road markings have to be easily understood by all road users regardless of their age and nationality. Kent has a significant volume of non local traffic, especially foreign vehicles therefore it is essential that KHS bases its standards within the national framework and is consistent with its implementation of them.

2. Background

- 2.1 The existing signing policy has been reviewed as it is over five years old. It was developed when the districts and boroughs had their own highway units. As these highway units have been brought back into Kent County Council the policy needs to be able to manage public and Member expectations and be delivered in one consistent way.
- 2.2 There is no existing policy relating to road marking and road studs.

3. Aims and Objectives

- 3.1 This policy aims to contribute in achieving the highway related subjects of Kent County Council's Local Transport Plan 2006 - 2011 (LTP) by providing traffic signs and road markings using the most appropriate materials affordable, to assist improving road safety by making the signs and road markings more visible in all conditions.
- 3.2 A Technical Directive document has also been produced to ensure all involved in design of this asset group (internal and external) are able to consistently apply the policy. It provides further detailed information regarding why a policy statement has been formulated, background information detailing how the policy statement was generated and how the policy should be applied to our road network.
- 3.3 Adherence to the Technical Directive will assist in enhancing the appearance of the urban and rural environment through removal of sign clutter and the use of innovative design and materials. It will enable KHS to contribute to environmental and climate control policies. It will assist in enabling cost efficiencies to be gained through specification of materials and number of signs required to be kept to a minimum.

4. Consultation and Data

- 4.1 The Technical Directive has used the KHS Document toolkit. This has been developed by KHS Business Performance team and clearly sets out how all KHS documents will be approved and published. Documents are often a legal requirement and may be used, for

example, in insurance claims or other legal proceedings to show how we use our council powers to carry out approved tasks.

4.2 The document has been forwarded to KCC Finance for comment to ensure the Council is able to afford the service. Internal consultation within KHS and also with Kent Police was undertaken on 14 June 2010. A further meeting relating specifically to illumination of traffic signs was undertaken on 24th August 2010 and it was agreed to adhere strictly to the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002.

4.3 The Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and approved with no further action being required.

5. Views of the Environment, Highways & Waste POSC

5.1 At the meeting on the 4 November 2010, the POSC supported the proposals for recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways & Waste as set out in paragraph 6.

6. Recommendation

6.1 The Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste is asked to **approve the Technical Directive**.

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Background Document: Signs & Road Markings Technical Directive – available on request from the contact officer