

To Nick Chard, Cabinet Member, Environment Highways and Waste

By: Norman Bateman, Head of Technical Services

Subject: Signs & Road Marking policy

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

This report seeks approval from the Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste to approve the signs & road marking policy.

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 Adherence to the policy 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 This policy reviews existing policy relating to signs and also includes new policy in relation to road marking and road studs.
- 4.2 The policy 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.

- 4.3 The document has been forwarded to KCC Finance for comment to ensure the Council is able to afford policies made. 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 the policy has been amended accordingly.
- 4.4 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

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste is asked to **approve the Signs and Road Marking Policy.**

Author contact details

Rachel Best
Tel: 01622 798466

Background Documents: Signs & Road Marking Policy
Consultation Feedback (Policy Appendix 3)