

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

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| TO: | TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE | | |
| DATE: | 9 MARCH 2017 | AGENDA ITEM: | 14 |
| TITLE: | SANDCROFT ROAD COLLAPSE REPAIR SCHEME UPDATE | | |
| LEAD COUNCILLOR: | COUNCILLOR PAGE | PORTFOLIO: | STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT |
| SERVICE: | TRANSPORTATION AND STREETCARE | WARDS: | THAMES/MAPLEDURHAM |
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To inform Councillors of the collapse that occurred within the public highway in Sandcroft Road, Caversham on 4th December 2016.
- 1.2 To provide Councillors with an update on the progress that has been made to date to investigate and repair the damage.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 To secure the most effective use of resources in the delivery of high quality, best value public service.
- 3.2 To make travel more secure, safe and comfortable for all users of the public highway.
- 3.3 To provide a public highway network as safe as reasonably practical having due regard to financial constraints and statutory duties.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Sandcroft Road is located in Caversham and runs from its junction with Kidmore Road to Conisboro Avenue.
- 4.2 A report of a burst watermain was received by Thames Water on the morning of Saturday 3rd December 2016 outside house numbers 4 & 6 Sandcroft Road. A Thames Water technician attended site and subsequently raised a job for a repair team to attend at the earliest possible opportunity.
- 4.3 Thames Water's contractor completed the repair on the morning of the 4th December 2016. When the water supply was turned back on a secondary burst occurred on the same stretch of pipe near the junction with Kidmore Road.
- 4.4 The repair of the second watermain burst was then completed in the early hours of Monday 5th December 2016.
- 4.5 Due to the damage caused to Sandcroft Road, Thames Water were required to close the road to vehicle traffic and erected heras fencing to ensure public safety.
- 4.6 Thames Water commissioned a radar survey of Sandcroft Road which showed that there were several areas below the road surface that indicated the presence loose and / or voided material.
- 4.7 Reading Borough Council arranged a meeting with Thames Water and our term structural engineers, Peter Brett Associates, to discuss the initial finding of the Thames Water radar surveys.
- 4.8 It was agreed that further more detailed investigation work would be necessary due to the known geology of the area, (gravel material over chalk), and nearby historical gravel extraction and clay / chalk mining activity.
- 4.9 Thames Water commissioned Peter Brett Associates to carry out the desk top historical record investigation and to engage a suitable ground investigation contractor to carry out the additional dynamic probing works.
- 4.11 A joint meeting with affected residents was held on the evening of 17th February 2017 where the progress to date and proposal for further investigation was presented.
- 4.10 The necessary ground investigation works started on Monday 20th February 2017. Reading Borough Council provided a gang to carry out trial holes to establish and map out the utility services in the road in advance of the dynamic probing contractor.

- 4.11 The dynamic probing investigation works are scheduled to be completed within 5 weeks. Peter Brett Associates will then prepare a detailed report and recommendation to Thames Water setting out the information found and possible repair solutions. This report is expected to take 4 weeks to complete.
- 4.12 A suitable contractor would then be procured to carry out the works.
- 4.13 Thames Water has agreed to update the affected residents on a weekly basis and provide feedback on the ground investigation report once it is available.
- 4.14 A further update report will be brought to Traffic Management Sub-Committee as the scheme develops.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 The Sandcroft Road Collapse Repair Scheme will contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan 2016 - 2019 objectives of:
- Keeping the town clean, safe, green and active
 - Providing infrastructure to support the economy
 - Remaining financially sustainable to deliver these service priorities

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 Regular meetings and updates will be provided to the affected residents in Sandcroft Road.
- 6.2 The Sandcroft Road Collapse Repair Scheme update report is available on the Council's website.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 In addition to the Human Rights Act 1998 the Council is required to comply with the Equalities Act 2010. Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 requires the Council to have due regard to the need to:-
- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 7.2 The Sandcroft Road Collapse Repair Scheme consists of ground stabilisation work to the Council's existing public highway network. There is no overall

change to service delivery at this time. Should any future updates/amendments be required, which result in service delivery changes, an equality impact assessment will be carried out.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Council, as Highway Authority, has a duty under the Highways Act 1980 to carry out highway maintenance and maintain highway structures.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Sandcroft Road Collapse Repair Scheme is currently being funded fully by Thames Water.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 N/A