

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **TUESDAY, 19 MARCH 2013**

REPORT BY: **DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT**

SUBJECT: **THE POLICY FOR SKID RESISTANCE ON THE
ADOPTED ROAD NETWORK**

1.00 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To seek Cabinet approval of a Policy for Skid Resistance on the Adopted Highway Network.

2.00 **BACKGROUND**

2.01 The Highways Act 1980 places a statutory obligation on the Council as Highways Authority to maintain the adopted Highway Network in a safe and 'fit for purpose' state.

2.02 In February 2012 the Councils Executive approved the Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP) which defined some of the maintenance regimes and protocols to be adopted by the Council to ensure compliance with its statutory duty.

2.03 A key element of the HAMP is the development of a Policy for skid resistance which is a critical factor in ensuring the safety of the Network.

2.04 Highway Maintenance Good Practise Guidance recommends that Highway Authorities approve and adopt a policy for monitoring, measuring and managing the skid resistance in their network. The policy will also protect the Council from potential claim or challenge following an incident or accident on the network.

3.00 **CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 The term "skid resistance" refers to the frictional properties of the road surface, measured using an approved testing device under controlled conditions.

3.02 Flintshire County Council utilise the SCRIM (Sideway-force Coefficient Routine Investigation Machine) method for measuring skid resistance which measures the force between a rubber tyre against the pre-wetted road surface. The resulting value, (SCRIM), relates to the coefficient of friction and provides an indication of the relative polished

state of a road surface.

- 3.03 The proposed Skid Resistance Policy is based on HD 28/04 within the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges issued by the Highways Agency, which provides the basis for the monitoring and analysis of skid resistance on Trunk Roads within the United Kingdom. The document also allows for local interpretation to apply the content to non Trunk Road Networks.
- 3.04 Desired or investigatory level SCRIM values are assigned to each section of road in the County which vary, depending on individual factors such as road geometry, the likelihood and nature of potential conflicts between road users and the known accident history. Investigatory Levels are determined before testing is carried out and act as a benchmark against which the measured values can be compared.
- 3.05 All sites exhibiting a measured skidding resistance below the Investigatory Level will be recorded and investigated in line with the Skid Resistance Site Investigation Procedure – **Appendix 1**.

The proposed Policy on Skid Resistance is shown on **Appendix 2**.

- 3.06 The Policy will apply only to the 'A' and 'B' and defined strategic 'C' class network and there will be no formal Policy for the remainder of the unclassified road network. This is based on a risk management approach, taking into consideration the lower traffic levels and that low skid resistance is not being a major factor in road safety on these roads. There is however a requirement for road surfacing aggregates used on all roads to meet a minimum specified level of skid resistance known as the Polished Stone Value which is intended to maintain the skid resistance of the surface on the road.

4.00 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.01 That Cabinet approves the Policy on Skid Resistance on the Adopted Highway Network.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 The Policy will operate from within existing budgets.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 Not applicable.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 No impact.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 A desk top assessment indicated that the Policy included in the report do not unfairly impact on any particular group.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

None.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

None.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 With Cabinet Member.

12.00 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Skid Resistance Site Investigation Procedure.

Appendix 2 - The proposed policy on Skid Resistance.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None.

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