

		AGENDA ITEM 10
		PSEG/21/16
Committee:	Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	12 September 2016	
HIGHWAYS SURFACE DRESSING SITE VISIT		
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On 9 June 2016 a Committee site visit took place to provide Members with an opportunity to learn more about highways surface dressing and see how it is applied in practice. In September 2014 there was a Committee visit that focussed upon the repair of potholes and highways maintenance, and at that time Members had shown an interest in taking part in a follow up visit to find out more about the practical application of surface dressing.

Councillors Tony Durcan, Carlo Guglielmi, David Kendall, Chris Pond, Stephen Robinson, Kay Twitchen, and Andy Wood took part in the visit.

The Committee visited a site on the outskirts of Wickford. Highways officers explained how highways maintenance is managed and implemented, the actual process of applying surface dressing, the importance of temperature and weather conditions, and the traffic management requirements on site during works. Members were able to see close up the various equipment used, including a new machine that is able to cover apply material to the whole width of the carriageway thus reducing the overall length of time required for the surface dressing process.

It was interesting to witness how work is carried out on site, and watching work in progress generated a lot of questions from Members. Overall it fostered better understanding of the processes involved and reasons why things are done in a certain way thus challenging some of the criticisms directed at highway works eg the weather and road temperature are critical in the application of surface dressing and dictate the seasonal nature of the work as well as impact upon the planned programme of works.

On their return to the Springfield Highways Depot, Members received a presentation on asset management and surface treatment operations.

Before leaving the Depot Councillor Carlo Guglielmi accepted an invitation to see how 'Confirm' works in practice, which is the system used to manage highway fault reporting.

Action required by the Committee:

To note report as a record of the Committee site visit.
