

		AGENDA ITEM 8
		PSEG/19/16
Committee:	Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	12 September 2016	
LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANELS		
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Background

On 30 June 2016 a workshop was held for Committee Members to discuss their impressions of scrutiny activity and how the Committee's effectiveness could be improved. The output of the discussion will be the subject of a separate report at the Committee's next meeting.

The workshop was followed by a briefing delivered by Highways Officers that updated the Committee on the Local Highways Panels (LHPs) prior to more detailed planning of a scrutiny review.

In practice the briefing drew attention to new staffing structures that have been introduced and other changes that will have an impact upon the delivery of local highway schemes. It was learned that an executive review was already underway to provide the LHPs with new terms of reference, Member guidance, and processes for submitting schemes.

In the context of conclusions reached in the earlier workshop around the timeliness of scrutiny review and ability to influence decisions, it was agreed by those present that it was necessary to contribute to the consultation being conducted on the terms of reference and Member guidance as part of the overall review of LHPs. To ensure that time was not lost, the relevant documentation on the terms of reference was circulated electronically to Committee Members for comments before being co-ordinated as part of a Committee response to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport. A copy of the letter sent to the Cabinet Member is attached at the Appendix.

When the Committee meets on 22 September the Cabinet Member has been invited to update the Committee on the latest position with regard to consultation

being undertaken on the LHP terms of reference and Member Guidance, together with an explanation on the project validation process.

Action required by the Committee:

To be note the report on consultation that took place with the Committee in July 2016.
