

		AGENDA ITEM 7
		PSEG/ 08/15
Committee:	Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	28 May 2015	
LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANELS		
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Last year when the Committee agreed its work programme it was envisaged that a review of the Local Highways Panels (LHPs) would be initiated this Spring so that it could draw upon the three years of experience since the LHPs were first established. Also a review would be able to reflect upon changes that were in the process of being made at that time.

The LHP framework was introduced in 2012 and has evolved in response to experience. Each district has its own individual LHP, and a variety of local practice has arisen. The Committee will provide a means to review what may or may not have worked well and what changes have been made to address any problems, compare their operation as well as address any criticisms, in order to identify good practice.

It is proposed that the overall terms of reference could be 'to consider if the Local Highways Panels have achieved their original objectives, and what lessons have been learned by individual Panels so that good practice may be shared across the Panels'.

As a first step in the planning of the review a briefing has been arranged for today's Committee meeting to provide a strategic overview of the LHPs, and the following questions have been forwarded to today's contributors to shape the content of the briefing:

1. What were the original objectives behind the LHPs?
2. What are the current role and responsibilities of the LHPs?
3. How have they been set up including their governance arrangements?
4. How is the work of the LHPs managed by the Highways Authority?
5. What lessons have been learned from operational experience, and what changes have been made since the LHPs were set up?

6. How has funding been allocated to the LHPs?
7. In summary what is the range of approaches taken by individual districts and lessons learned countywide?*

Andy Turner, Head of Project Delivery (Highways), has been invited to give a presentation to the Committee today, and he has provided a briefing paper by way of background that is attached at the Appendix.

In June the Committee will consider its work programme moving forward until 2017. If it is agreed to proceed with a more in depth scrutiny review of the LHPs as set out in the above terms of reference then it will be necessary to consider a common framework of appropriate questions to be posed to the twelve individual LHPs.

Action required by the Committee:

The Committee is invited to consider the information exchanged during the briefing, and whether or not in due course an in depth review be conducted on the twelve LHPs in order to identify and share good practice.
