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|  |  | <b>AGENDA ITEM 4</b> |
|  |  | <b>EDE/28/10</b>     |
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| <b>Committee:</b>  | <b>Economic Development and Environment Policy &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>                        |                      |
| <b>Date:</b>   | <b>16 December 2010</b>  |                      |
| <b>SCRUTINY REVIEW ON THE RELATIONSHIP WITH STATUTORY UNDERTAKERS IN THE WAY WORKS ARE UNDERTAKEN ON THE HIGHWAY (Minutes 52/October and 60/November 2010)</b> |  |                      |
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In October 2010 (Minute 52) the Committee began the process of taking evidence as part of its review on the relationship with Statutory Undertakers in the way that works are undertaken on the highway. The objectives of the review are:

- To understand the relationship between the Highways Authority and statutory undertakers with regard to highways work and their respective roles, responsibilities and legislative powers.
- To assess the level of consultation, co-ordination and co-operation that exists and monitoring when statutory undertakers are carrying out works in the highway.
- To investigate the level of compliance of the statutory undertakers with current legislation and the arrangements, which are in place in Essex.
- To identify improvements that could be made to the co-ordination and carrying out of works by statutory undertakers and the Council and to reduce inconvenience to the public, minimise disruption and maximise the benefit of works.

At that meeting the Committee received report EDE/23/10 and an overview from Liz Saville, the County Council's ITS and Congestion Manager, on the way that work may be undertaken in the highway by the utility companies and action that is being taken to improve the Council's management of its New Roads and Street Works Service.

At its November meeting (Minute 60) the Committee invited some representatives of Utility Companies to give their perspectives on undertaking works in the highway. A summary of their evidence is set out in Minute 60/ November 2010.

At this meeting the Committee will focus upon taking evidence from representatives from Road User Groups, who have been invited to present their perspectives on highway works. The following lines of questioning will be referred to the representatives to facilitate the Committee in taking forward the review:

1. How do witnesses find out about road works?
  - *Is the information accurate (is time and date the only information required by witnesses)?*
  - *Do witnesses have sight of pre-advice information of road works or prefer to react day by day?*
2. Do they obtain information on road works from the ELGIN internet site?
  - *Do they rely on ECC Traffic Control Centre information?*
3. What action do witnesses have to take when they learn of roadworks?
  - *Is the information timely (a minimum 56days noticed is requested by the Traffic Commission from operators with changes to registered services, which may include route diversions due to significant road works).*
4. What are the main issues for the various road user groups?
  - *Do the members of the public, your customers express dissatisfaction to the witnesses and if so are they advised who to complain to?*
5. Can witnesses identify any good/ bad examples of road works carried out by the Utility Companies of recent and current street works?
  - *If the witnesses would like to be consulted with regard to future scheduled road works, how would this information best be communicated (potentially many thousands of applications are received by ECC so it would not be possible to hold individual meetings for every application).*
  - *Do you advise your customers of possible disruption to Public Transport services, and why?*

#### **Action required by the Committee:**

**Following the cross examination of witnesses, the Committee is requested to consider the various evidence that Members have received so far as part of this review and to identify their initial findings for incorporating into a draft Scrutiny Report.**

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