

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Minute 154 Questions to the Executive

c) *Question: Road quality of A27 through Chichester*

Mr Oakley queried whether the WSCC or the Council was responsible for cleaning the road surface through Chichester. He was particularly concerned at the unkempt condition of the verges, central reservations etc. between Crockherhill and Fishbourne.

Written response:

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 the Council is legally required to ensure that the A27 trunk road and other adopted highways are, so far as is practicable, kept clean. The Act states:

In determining what standard is required, as respects any description of land, highway or road, for compliance with subsections (1) and (2), regard shall be had to the character and use of the land, highway or road as well as the measures which are practicable in the circumstances.

Until recently the Council employed contractors to litter pick the A27 six times a year. Reactive cleaning was also completed as required i.e. in the event of an accident or spillage. The contractors cleaned the highway verges, whilst any debris accumulating in the central reservations was cleared by Highway England when carrying out their annual maintenance work. Traffic management legislation (which dictates the way in which work should be undertaken safely) was previously applied to highway works such as road surface repairs and lamp or barrier replacement. However, in the past couple of years, and following a series of accidents involving street cleaners, this legislation has been applied to the street cleaning industry as well.

A review of practices determined that, to comply with the regulations, the Council would have to operate road closures and work at night when traffic levels are lower. Specialist contractors are required to put traffic management in place which means the cost of completing the task has risen considerably. The central reservation was cleaned using this method in May 2016 and quotes have been invited from four companies to complete a thorough clean of the A27 from Crockerhill to Emsworth between January and March 2017. This is considered to be the best time of year as roadside vegetation will have died back thereby exposing the litter to be collected. Once costs for this have been confirmed the Council will need to consider the standard and frequency of this work, providing a solution that is practicable and affordable whilst maintaining a satisfactory environment.