

Item 31 Appendix 1

Cllr Warren Morgan
Chair, Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny
Committee
Brighton & Hove City Council
King's House
Grand Avenue
Hove BN3 2LS

17 February
2009

Dear Warren

Request for scrutiny on roadworks

Over the last year, the city's streets have seemingly disappeared under a never-ending barrage of cones, diggers and lane closures. The maintenance and renewal of essential utility services is welcome and necessary, but the resulting roadworks cause frustration and delay for bus users, motorists and other road users.

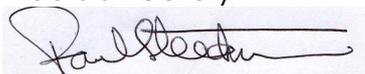
They may dissuade visitors from coming to the city centre, with knock-on effects for local businesses and the city's economy; the administration made the temporary removal of roadworks from the city centre during Christmas the centrepiece of its recession-fighting strategy.

Residents' frustrations with the unceasing roadworks are driven in part by the perception that the Council is not doing enough to co-ordinate works in a strategic manner. I would therefore like to request a report to the committee into the Council's policies and processes for managing the roadworks on our streets. Seeking out best practice from other authorities, among the questions that such a report might examine are:

- Is the Council using the fullest powers available to us under the relevant legislation (including the Traffic Management Act 2004 and related regulations) to co-ordinate the activities of different utility companies and the Council's own highway maintenance?
- Is the Council using all the powers available to it to penalise companies whose works over-run?
- Does the Council use the opportunities provided by digging up roads for one service to renew other services or insert additional ones – such as broadband cabling, pipework for future district heating schemes or electrical wiring for private wire networks for future low-carbon CHP energy production?
- Is high-quality, easily-accessible information in appropriate formats available to the public on planned roadworks?

I hope that you and the committee feel able to accommodate my request in your work programme.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Paul Steedman