

Highways & Traffic Management Business Plan 2015-21

Work is currently underway on our Business Plan. The document will set out our purpose as a service, our business model, strategy and targets. Work on the draft should be complete by mid-October. This will then be shared with teams to enable discussion and input. It's really important in challenging times to use the business plan process to share an understanding of how we go about delivering our service and what we need to focus on. The Plan will build on the work we have been doing over the last couple of years and will identify new ways of working, and confirm the culture we all need to adopt, to get the very best results for Devon's residents.

Please take the opportunity to get involved in the team discussions that will shape our business plan.

South West Highways Restructure

The SWH shareholders and Senior Management Team recently undertook a thorough review of the business as a whole and has developed a new business plan. The plan takes advantage of the success of the contracting parts of the business and recognises the different needs and demands of those parts of the business, including their presentation to the marketplace. As a consequence the Board has decided to restructure the company. It is believed that the new structure will enhance SWH's ability to continue to grow all the significant parts of its diverse business.

The company has formed a new subsidiary whose activities will be guaranteed by South West Highways Ltd. The new company is called SWH Construction Ltd and it is intended that it will start trading on 1st January 2016.

All highway maintenance contracts, including the current Devon Term Maintenance Contract, will be carried out directly by South West Highways Ltd. SWH Ltd intends to bid for the new highways Term Maintenance Contract that will commence in April 2017.

SWH Construction Ltd will consist of the already well-established SWH Build and SWH Civils teams. As well as Build and Civils, Surfacing and Signs will also come under SWH Construction Ltd and will provide surfacing to South West Highways Ltd, local frameworks and to private clients.

The establishment of SWH Construction is intended to provide clarity to help attract clients for buildings and civil engineering works who may have found it confusing that 'Highways' is part of the existing company name.

The change in company structure will involve the transfer of employees to the appropriate part of the new company structure.

Rugby World Cup

Few people who witnessed the first of the three Rugby World Cup matches at Sandy Park will appreciate the significant work that has gone into the transport and traffic management planning for the event. Staff, from the Highway Service, have played a significant and lead role and their hard work paid off on 29 September when a capacity crowd attended the match at the Exeter Chief's stadium at Sandy Park. The match coincided with the city's afternoon rush hour. Some adjustments and controls to managing travel and parking were put in place during the match day travel periods and the result was recognised as a very slick and efficient operation.

The Devon County Council Highways Operation Control Centre, which accommodated highways staff and partner organisations as the information hub for traffic management of the event, featured in the reporting after the match with interviews conducted from the HOCC.