

## SCRUTINY COMMISSION

### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

To:	Cllr Graham Lawman – Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets Graeme Kane – Assistant Director of Highways and Waste
<b>Question</b>	
Does the Council have a strategy for the adoption of roads, and if yes, what is that strategy?	
<b>Response from the Assistant Director Highways and Waste</b>	
<p>“The issue of Highway Adoptions has previously been considered by the former County Council’s Scrutiny Committee at length. Reports may still be available. However, we can confirm that North Northants Highway Adoption Policies and Standards are in line with national guidance contained within the <u>Department for Transport’s Advice Note – Highway Adoptions</u> a national document that Officers from the Council contributed directly towards drafting.</p> <p>Our Policies are inherited from the County Council but have been refreshed in terms of standards to ensure they remain up to date.</p> <p>In respect of any strategy, we are guided by the policies of the Council which are to work with developers to promote, where appropriate, the adoption of new streets that comply with our standards and criteria. However, the Council cannot legally force the adoption of any new street and cannot force developers to offer their streets for adoption.</p> <p>In addition, the actual adoption of new streets should clearly only occur when:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• They meet our standards in layout and in construction terms</li><li>• Are subject to appropriate legal agreements under Section 38 of the Highways Act 1980</li><li>• Have been built appropriately in compliance with our standards</li><li>• That the developer owns all of the land necessary to dedicate as highway or that affected landowners are party to the agreement</li><li>• That all drainage discharge, connections and consents are in place and sewers are adopted etc</li></ul> <p>Our Section 38 Notes for Guidance for Developers sets everything out for developers.</p> <p>We are also in the process of updating and rebranding a series of “Brief Guides” that cover the Highway Adoption Process and Private Streets which may also assist. The Guides were originally commissioned following a previous Scrutiny committee resolution of the County Council.</p>	

We are more than happy to provide copies of these documents to the Commission should they wish to refer to them.”