

Assessing the performance of surface treatments

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This paper will consider the risks that Highway Authorities face, with respect to monitoring performance of road surfaces in engaging contractors, and set out a process of monitoring and evaluation that can help ensure the supply chain are engaged with the long term performance at network level.

Somerset County Council is a large rural county in the south of England. They currently deliver Highway Maintenance services through a contract with Skanska with commissioning/ design/ construction/ supervision roles well defined. SCC identify and provide design briefs for both surface treatment works, which are then designed by Skanska and delivered through specialist sub -contractors and suppliers. SCC have developed comprehensive guidance on the use of materials; however, have not formally assessed the performance of different materials in different environments.

In 2015 the first Inspection panel was convened comprising SCC commissioning and operational staff, the designer and WDM limited, and the process was repeated in 2016. The 2015 panel reviewed a number of sites both at desktop level and on site with a particular focus on durability, and the suitability of materials for different environments. In 2016 the Inspection panel considered the SCRIM performance on schemes completed in the last 4 years. A desktop analysis suggested that over 40% of these schemes had SCRIM readings at a level that could trigger the SCC SCRIMinvestigatory protocol. The purpose of the 2016 review was to try and understand the design, environmental and traffic constraints that may have contributed to this apparent poor performance. This paper will detail the findings from the reviews and emphasise the importance of commissioning authorities to understand how their designers and contractors manage maintenance work and the impact that this may have on future designs.