

Cabinet – 14 October 2021

Questions from Councillors

1 Councillor Tony Edwards to Councillor Alastair Gunn (Portfolio Holder for Environment):

Please could you detail your understanding of Harlow Council's and/or HTS responsibilities with respect to the maintenance of the Northgate Roundabout and if the Council/HTS have any responsibility for this roundabout why has it been so badly neglected state for well over year?

Reply from Councillor Alastair Gunn (Portfolio Holder for Environment):

Essex County Council is responsible for maintenance of the Highway including roundabouts. This includes some works to vegetation where that is necessary for highway safety, such as sightlines and direct risks to road. Essex County Council makes an annual payment to Harlow Council for the maintenance of vegetation on Highways land in Harlow for these purposes.

Harlow Council, through HTS, carries out where practicable work on highways land over and above the minimum required standard, mainly in order to improve the appearance of its area.

It has never been practicable to carry out landscape works on the roundabout at the junction of Fourth Avenue and Northgate due to its design as access cannot be obtained safely without closing the road to traffic.

The Council is in discussion with Essex County Council regarding the most appropriate means of resolving this issue. Discussions are currently underway with regard to installing hard surfacing on the roundabout to prevent future maintenance requirements.