



EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REPORT OF: Executive Member for Regeneration

LEAD OFFICERS: Deputy Chief Executive

DATE: 30th July 2018

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED: Regeneration

WARD/S AFFECTED: All

SUBJECT: Highways Maintenance Plan

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The attached draft plan incorporates and embraces the current code of practice. The draft plan defines the Council's role as local highway authority and details how the authority maintains the highway by describing the appropriate working practices.

Approval of this document will allow the council to continue to improve the manner in which it manages the maintenance of the Borough's highway network.

This draft plan should be read in conjunction with the previously published highways asset management strategy and policy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Member:

1. Approves the draft Highways Maintenance Plan and its publication on the authority's website.
2. Authorises the review, amplification and, if necessary, revision of the Plan within 24 months.
3. Confirms that the authority endorses the principles of risk based asset management described in Well Managed Highway Infrastructure: A Code of Practice, published in October 2016.

3. BACKGROUND

The UK Roads Liaison Group (UKRLG) published "Well Managed Highway Infrastructure, A Code of Practice" in October 2016. The Code is founded on the principle that 'delivery of a safe and well maintained highway network relies on good evidence and sound engineering judgement.' The intention of this Code is to assist authorities, such as Blackburn with Darwen, to develop our own levels of service, these are given in the highways Asset Management Strategy and the manner in which we deliver them is expressed in this draft Plan.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

This draft Plan supports the Council's six priorities, particularly supporting businesses and indirectly creating more jobs as well as improving the efficiency of highway maintenance and therefore making the existing budgets go further.

The draft plan covers the following major asset groups:

1. Carriageways,
2. Footways.
3. Drainage.
4. Bridges, retaining walls and related structures.

And is set out in four main sections, these being:

1. General context.
2. Highway Maintenance Procedures.
3. Structures Maintenance Procedures.
4. Street Lighting, illuminated Signs and Bollards Maintenance Procedures.

The extent to which an authority has adopted the recommendations and practices described in the Code of Practice is examined by the DfT through their annual assessment questionnaire. The previous codes of practice, 'Well Maintained Highways', 'Well Lit Highways' and 'Management of Highway Structures' will be withdrawn in October 2018.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This draft plan compliments the existing policy and strategy documents, its approval and use will improve the way the Council manages the highway network.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from this strategy. Continued adherence to the principles and practices promoted by the draft plan will yield financial savings in the medium term.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council has a duty under section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 to maintain roads that are maintainable at public expense. The Act does not define what comprises maintenance nor does it set specific or minimum standards. Risk based asset management is considered good practice by the UK Roads Liaison Group and HMEP and is recommended by DfT.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

No additional resources are required to implement the draft plan.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

10. CONSULTATIONS

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded and published if applicable.

VERSION:	1
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Matthew Joyce
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	Draft Highway Maintenance Plan.
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