



EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REPORT OF: Executive Member for Growth and Development

LEAD OFFICERS: Director of Environment and Operations

DATE: 14/10/2019

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED: Growth and Development

WARD/S AFFECTED: All

SUBJECT: Highways Asset Management Strategy

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Asset Management strategy has been extensively updated to ensure it continues to be current and fit for purpose.

The Performance management section of the strategy has been revised to reflect the transfer of both services and staff to the Council.

Communications processes have significantly evolved and now warrant their own strategy which is currently in draft form; consequently this section has been removed from the Asset Management strategy.

The data management section has been amended to reflect the recent cycle of structures inspections and the desire to continue to improve the breadth and quality of the information held on highway assets.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Member:

1. Approves the updated Highways Asset Management Strategy.
2. Authorises its publication on the authority's website.
3. Authorises the review and any necessary update of the strategy within 24 months.
4. Requests that the highway management monthly briefings continue.

3. BACKGROUND

The UK Roads Liaison Group was established in 2001, it brings together national and local government to consider roads infrastructure engineering and operational matters. They recommend that all highway authorities draft a highway asset management policy.

The Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme is a transformation programme which connects networks from across the highways sector and provides tools and resources to assist leaders and managers deliver savings and transform services through greater efficiencies.

The HMEP has published several documents including Highway Infrastructure Asset Management and The Potholes Review, both of which promote improvements in the quality of highway maintenance through the use of Asset Management Policies and Strategies.

This revision of the Highways Asset Management Strategy ensures that the content of the document

is up-to-date and relevant to the current condition of the highway asset. This document defines the nature and extent of highway maintenance in this Borough; it demonstrates that the Council's vision and purpose is closely aligned with national standards and Codes of Practice. It is fundamental to successful highway maintenance in the Borough.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

This revision focuses on the increasing value and benefit to be gained from a thorough and comprehensive understanding of the condition of the components of the highway asset.

The format and content of the strategy have been amended to reflect this focus and now comprise:

- Part 1: Overall Strategy.
- Part 2: Investment and Delivery Strategy.
- Part 3: Asset Management Framework.
- Part 4: Data Management Strategy.
- Part 5: Performance Management.
- Part 6: Risk management.
- Part 7: Benchmarking.
- Part 8: Annual Report.

Part 4 now clearly identifies who is responsible for maintaining each data item and identifies specifically where the data is held as recommended by the recent audit report.

The communications processes have evolved to such an extent that they now warrant, deserve and demand their own documentation and strategy, which is currently being drafted for discussion, separate from this asset management strategy.

The authority's knowledge of the condition of its bridges has vastly improved in the last twelve months and this is reflected in this updated document. Engineering staff will ensure that this data is kept up-to-date and is used to minimise the continuing maintenance costs of this aspect of the highway asset.

This strategy compliments the risk based, Safety Defect Inspection Procedure.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The strategy continues to complement the existing highway management policy and allows improvements to the Council's management of the adopted highway network.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications of this strategy. The inspection of bridges and retaining walls has identified a number of issues whose resolution will exert significant pressure of capital maintenance funds. Invitations for applications for Challenge Funding are expected from the Department of Transport shortly, these funds will require financial support from the council, and it is recommended that a contingency fund is established to support this application. Previous applications were financially supported from existing capital budgets.

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 internal resources are required to comply with the strategy.

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

Consultation with residents takes place at ward solution meetings which are open to all residents and are generally chaired by ward councillors. Complaints and concerns are logged and investigated; progress is fed back to a subsequent meeting.

Consultations have taken place with the Director of Environment & Operations and the Executive Member for Regeneration.

The Director of Environment & Operations meets regularly with the leaders of all political parties.

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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DATE:	16 th August 2019
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	Highways Asset Management Strategy
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