

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

26 July 2018

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**CODE OF PRACTICE FOR WELL MANAGED HIGHWAY
INFRASTRUCTURE – APPROVAL OF HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE
ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY (HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE)**

(1) **Purpose of Report** On 1 February 2018, Cabinet agreed to receive a further report to approve a number of Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Technical Policy documents in response to the change to a risk based approach in the new Code of Practice Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure (Minute No. 37/18 refers). This report provides details of the technical policy finalised to date for which approval is sought.

(2) **Information and Analysis** The Council has been developing and improving its approach to the Asset Management of the highway infrastructure across the County. Whilst Asset Management has always been at the centre of the County's approach to maintaining its highways assets, a series of actions over the last 10 years has consolidated that position.

- 2008 First Highway/Transport Asset Management Plan approved.
- 2009 Highway infrastructure inventory captured.
- 2014 Risk Based approach to Highway Safety Inspections adopted.
- 2016 Treatment Based Highway Condition Survey methodology established. Carriageway Forward Works Plan published.
- 2017 Network Hierarchy adapted from Well-Maintained Highways to the recommendations of the new Code of Practice Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure.

The recent changes to the Code of Practice Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure were originally announced by the Department for Transport (DfT) as a refresh, but evolved into a rewrite moving away from the prescriptive methodologies set out in Well Maintained Highways to a risk based approach with no prescription in the new Code of Practice Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure. The new Code was launched in October 2016 with a recommendation that it be adopted by all highway authorities within two years.

The risk based approach requires the Council to develop its own approach to the Code of Practice setting out a policy, strategy, plan, processes and evidence chain to ensure that it can be clearly and transparently demonstrated that the Council is considering risk in delivering its services in accordance with asset management principles, thus ensuring an optimised approach and delivering the greatest value for the funding and resources available.

Over the last 18 months, work has been underway to develop the supporting documentation, principles and processes for a risk based approach to be delivered and sustained, and these work streams have led to the development of a number of key documents (see figure 1 below).

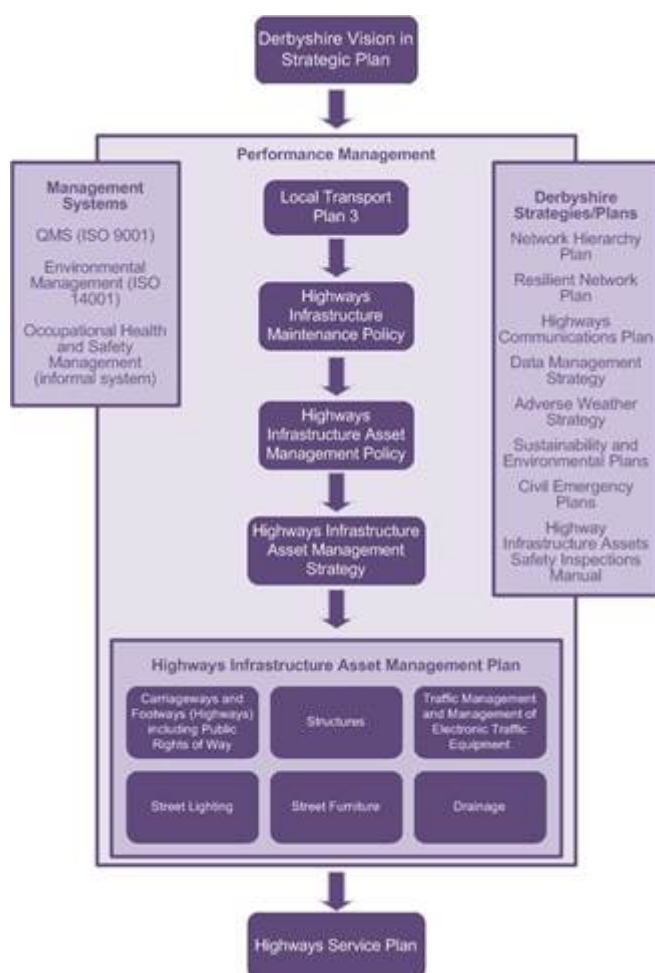


Figure 1 – key documents and context

These work streams and the policies, processes and documentation provide the basis of the Council's approach to meeting the requirements of the new Code of Practice Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure and provide the wherewithal for an efficient and effective risk based and transparent approach to managing the carriageways and footways, structures, street lighting, traffic management, drainage and street furniture.

The proposals are set out to deliver a level of service that will be safe, sustainable and deliverable within current budgetary constraints across the highway network. Safety will remain the Council's key driver in delivering a safe and reliable network. However, levels of service across the network will remain dependent on the available budget, using asset management processes to ensure the most efficient and effective spend.

Approval is being sought for the following document as described below:

- A Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy – this is a brief document outlining the Authority's commitment to sound Asset Management principles, in the management of its highway infrastructure, aligned with the Corporate Vision.

The approach to delivering the new Code of Practice Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure has been developed in conjunction with the Highways Management Team and the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Infrastructure.

It is therefore proposed that approval of, and amendments to the plans and strategies to approve the HIAMP are delegated to the Cabinet Member for highways, Transport and Infrastructure in conjunction with the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The delivery of levels of service will remain, subject to budgetary availability.

(4) **Legal Considerations** The Council has a duty under Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 to maintain publicly maintainable highways. Section 58 of the Act provides a defence to actions resulting from failure to maintain a highway where the Council is able to prove it has taken such care as is reasonably required to prove it ensure that the highway in question was not dangerous to traffic.

Developing and setting out the Council's risk based approach will enable the Council to deliver its services in line with existing statutory and national best practice, and will provide a firm foundation in defending claims made against the Authority.

(5) **Human Resources Considerations** The development and implementation of a risk based approach, as set out in this report, can be accommodated within the existing staff resource.

(6) **Social Value Considerations** A risk based approach to the maintenance and management of the Highway Infrastructure Network will enable the businesses, residents and visitors of Derbyshire to benefit from a safe and reliable network.

Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

(7) **Key Decision** No.

(8) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(9) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details – Neill Bennett, extension 38659.

(10) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That Cabinet:

- 10.1 Approves the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Technical Policy, as detailed in this report.
- 10.2 Delegates approval and implementation of the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management plans and strategies to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Infrastructure in conjunction with the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment.
- 10.3 Delegates approval of reviews and updates of the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Technical Policy, together with the supporting plans and strategies to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Infrastructure, in conjunction with the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY

JUNE 2018

AN ELEMENT OF THE HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE
ASSET MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Document Information

Title Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy

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Reviewed: Neill Bennett

Document Issue Status

TABLE OF AMENDMENTS					
NO	APPROVAL DATE	SECTION	PARAGRAPH	DETAILS	AUTHOR
0	xx/xx/20xx	All	All	First Issue	

Derbyshire County Council Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy

This document replaces the previous Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy.

1) Derbyshire County Council is committed to implementing good Asset Management principles in the management of its highway infrastructure.

2) Derbyshire County Council recognises that good Asset Management:

a) supports the Council's Vision set out in the Council Plan 2017 to 2021 to be:

**An efficient and high performing council delivering high quality,
value for money services**

b) enables the transport vision, goals and challenges identified in the Local Transport Plan (LTP3) to be addressed:

- Improving quality of life and promoting healthy natural environment
- Supporting a resilient local economy
- Tackling climate change
- Promoting equality of opportunity
- Contributing to better safety, security and health

c) supports the objective of the Highway Infrastructure Maintenance Policy statement of:

**The prevention of the deterioration of the highway infrastructure network
within the constraints of the available funding**

3) The Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy and Plan will set out how Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy will be delivered by the Council and enable informed decisions to be made with regards to:

- Funding of both improvements and maintenance;
- Cost effective resource targeting to achieve the greatest benefit; and
- Improved risk management associated with the Council's statutory duties.