

Asset Management

Annual Review
September 2026



Derbyshire Highways

✓ Working better, delivering more

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Document Information

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Introduction

As Cabinet Member for Highways, I would like to introduce this year's Annual Review document.

This document provides an overview of how we have managed our Highway assets in the financial year 2025-26 and the plans we have in the current financial year. Full details can be found on the county council's website: [Road improvements - Derbyshire County Council](#).

Our assets are diverse and include our road network, streetlights, road signs, bridges, retaining walls, traffic lights, drainage gullies, trees, roundabouts to name just a few.

We manage our assets in line with the asset management principles outlined in the [UKRLG's Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure: A Code of Practice](#).

We have a suite of asset management policy documents that govern how we manage our network. This included our data management strategy which provides full details about our assets. These can be requested by [completing an online form here](#).



Councillor Charlotte Hill, Cabinet Member for Highways.



Carriageways



Street furniture



Drainage



Electronic traffic management



Street lighting



Structures



Trees

This document is published annually, providing an up-to-date picture of the work and achievements across the Highway service.

We are also driving improvements to the way the service is delivered by implementing a new model of working within Highways through the delivery of the Derbyshire Highways transformation programme. We are reaching the final stages of implementation of the programme later this year, which will deliver significant benefits in collaborative working across the team.

The aim is to create a framework to recognise that staff are at the heart of enabling change, ensuring our partners and communities thrive and our organisation succeeds.

Its main aims are to:

- Attract and retain the best people in the most effective way possible by enabling responsive workforce plans and developing credible reward strategies.
- Engage, nurture and develop our people and our future potential.
- Enable organisational transformation and effective employee relations.
- Enable and ensure the wellbeing and safety of our people.

We have an asset management system which holds all the details about our highway assets, previous maintenance and new work that has been completed or scheduled to be completed.

The benefits of our system include:

- its adaptability so that it can reflect our policy and business process and be changed as they change
- policy and process compliance
- efficiencies through automation
- greater visibility of assets, defects and jobs both in the office and in the field
- the opportunity for improving customer updates

The county council is upgrading its finance system to track costs and expenditure. This has had a major impact on staff time both implementing the systems and training staff to maximise the benefits of the new systems.

The level of detail provided by our own online reporting system is far better than that offered by other 'off the shelf' products, like Fix My Street. By using our own system, we are able to save staff time, avoiding the need to manually input information from one ICT system to another. We are also able to gather insight to accurately risk-assess each site, maximising on-site safety for our staff.

Investment and innovation

As one of the council's most visible frontline services, Derbyshire Highways recognises the importance of investing in the county's highway infrastructure, to improve journeys for everyone across our county.

To achieve this, the service is investing like never before with a record £60 million spent during the financial year 2025/26.

The record level of investment has been driven by the Derbyshire Highways annual capital programme, funded by Government and the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA).

The service is also introducing new and innovative ways of working to deliver more permanent road repairs, more quickly. Thermal road repairs, jetpatchers and elastomastic patching are just a few examples of how we are working better to deliver more for all our communities.

Engagement and Communications

National Highways and Transportation survey

We take part in the National Highways and Transportation survey which is a national public satisfaction survey involving 111 local highway authorities.

The aim of the survey is to collect public perception or satisfaction with various elements of the council's work and activities. The results allow authorities to benchmark against their peers and analyse what work should be prioritised to improve public perception and satisfaction scores.

A consideration when interpreting the data from this survey is that it is only sent out to a limited number of households and the returned surveys are often skewed to those representing an older demographic. Therefore, the results are not always seen to be representative of the whole of the population of Derbyshire.

In 2025, the NHT survey was sent to 3,300 Derbyshire households with a return rate of 715 responses.

Approach to Engagement and Communications

Using national research (LGA *How do you hear about the services your council provides?*) we have been reviewing our approach to better inform local communities about roadworks in their area.

By informing people why we are carrying out works, our aim is to improve satisfaction and change perceptions about the work we do.

As part of this approach, we have:

Introduced plain English letters delivered door-to-door for major capital programme schemes to explain the reasons for the works, working hours and timescales. The letters include key contacts for residents to talk to if they have any access concerns.

In tandem with the letters, we use streetlight posters used to inform people about forthcoming works to inform people walking or cycling in the area about the purpose of the works.

This approach is being developed further across the wider service as part of our 'matrix information approach' to ensure communities are informed and, where possible, engaged about the types of work we have planned and the road closures or diversion routes required, using their input to refine proposals.

The service has worked closely with county councillors, who as elected representatives and community leaders, have an important role in sharing information about the work of Highways with their local communities.

The service has provided training sessions, site visits and factsheets, to help inform and develop county councillors understanding of the service to inform and answer residents' enquiries.

The Highways service is also considering alternative methods of engaging with residents to improve resident feedback and to get viewpoints from a more accurate sample of the actual demographics of Derbyshire.

These include:

- pop up surveys targeting specific groups of people who we have struggled to get viewpoints from using the NHT survey.
- looking at options around creating our own paper based and online approaches to engagement.

These approaches are in their infancy and will require further development. The approaches will inevitably adapt over time.

A trial using online feedback forms linked from QR codes printed in the letters about works has been used for major road maintenance schemes.

A weblink and QR code were included in the letters delivered to householders and on posters erected during major maintenance schemes, including the annual surface dressing, micro asphalt and the pre-patching works for the following year's surface dressing programme.

The feedback was shared with our Delivery team and contractors to improve ways of working, particularly around hours of working and sweeping of road surface following works.

Working with county councillors, we intend to look at other ways to deliver a responsive highways service, putting the customer first in how we plan and undertake our works.

Benchmarking

Future Highways Research Group

Derbyshire is a member of the Future Highways Research Group (FHRG). This is a benchmarking group for local highway authorities coordinated by Proving Services.

It has 38 members and enables both the sharing of best practice in different service delivery models and assessment of the value for money of highway services provided by an authority.

Derbyshire Highways has demonstrated significant improvements since 2021, in its assessed VfM position as it embeds a mixed economy operating model. In our recent (June 2026) peer reviewed VfM assessment the service is now assessed as Satisfactory with a number of areas assessed as good. The service remains on its intended trajectory towards being assessed as a good service.

However, as with the majority of Highway Authorities the service is managing a declining asset having had budgets constrained for many years. The condition of the asset and pressure on operational delivery is exacerbated by the increasing number of severe weather events.

When opportunities arise the service are ensuring that our external contracts and frameworks offer competitive cost-effective services.

Our professional services contract has enabled the delivery of tangible improvements in the management and delivery of the capital programme. There is also a plan to improve the skills of our inhouse service through the partnerships formed as part of this contract thus reducing the departments dependencies on external support.

The service provides a high-quality and productive service to customers through the effective contribution of both in-house teams and external partners. While performance remains strong, we are committed to continuous improvement and will continue to explore opportunities to enhance efficiency, innovation and customer outcomes. We also recognise the importance of attracting, retaining and developing skilled staff to ensure the service remains resilient and capable of meeting future challenges.

As part of our push to improve stakeholder communications, identified as an area of focus in the Derbyshire Highways Service: VFM Assessment and Improvement Opportunities 2026 report, we have introduced a number of changes including:

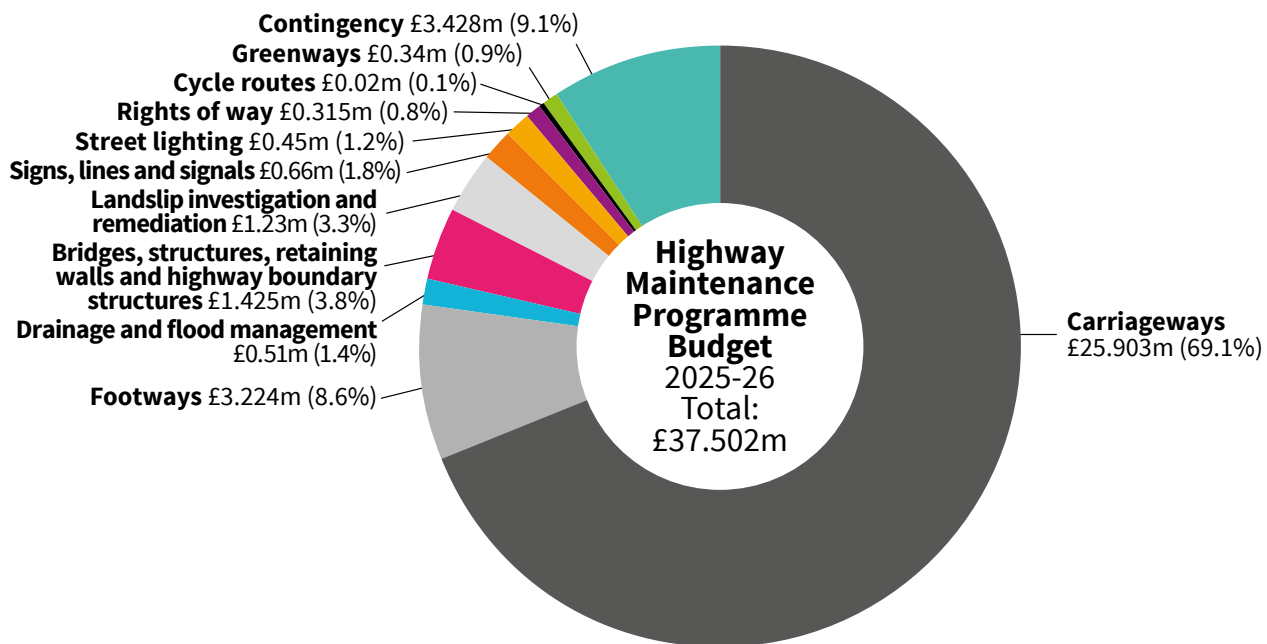
- Dedicated webpages about individual, major capital programme works including the multi-million pound surface dressing, micro asphalt and pre-patching repairs for surface dressing schemes.
- Email newsletters about specific schemes such as the Mytham bridge retaining wall repairs, to provide a regular flow of information to local residents who sign-up to receive the updates.
- Personalised email updates to individual Members to inform them in advance about major capital programme funded works on the highway, in their electoral divisions.
- Standardised, plain English letters to inform householders about major repair works outside their properties.
- Online surveys to provide feedback from householders affected by major works, highlighted by on street posters and in householder letters with QR codes for ease of use and to maximise take-up.
- Expansion of the monthly Members' newsletter to include additional content about major roadworks, listed on a district-by-district basis which are likely to cause disruption.



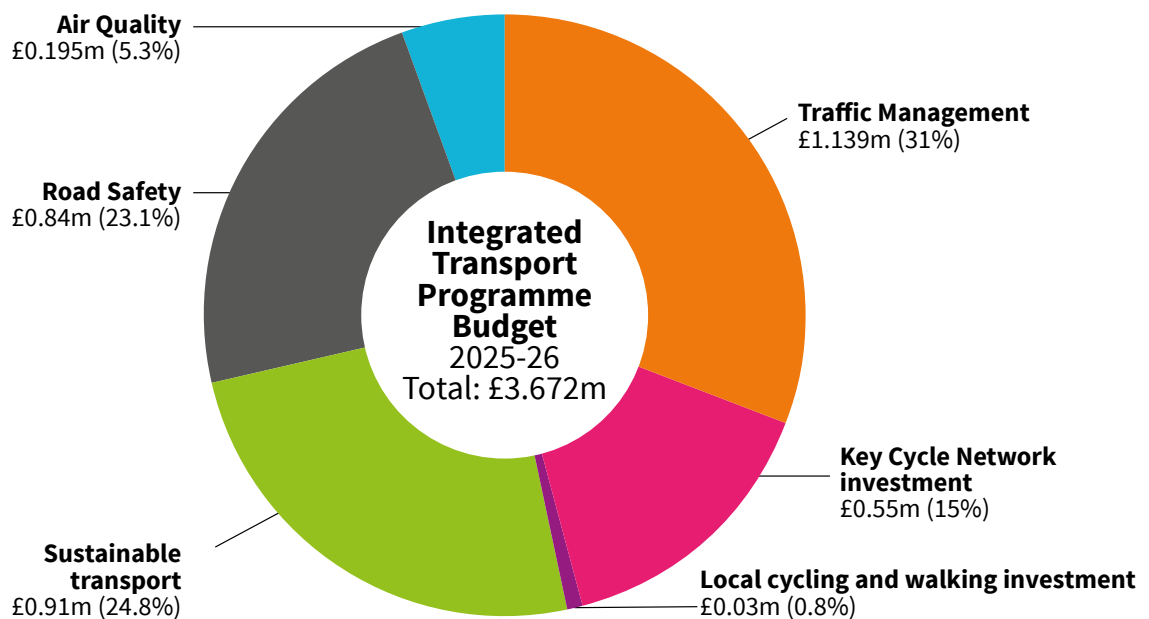
The budgets below were approved by Cabinet in November 2025 and have subsequently been subject to additional allocations from the City Regions Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS). The additional allocations are:

- Additional Preventative & Restorative Maintenance (capital) £6.298m
- Landslip & Retaining Wall Urgent Repair Programme (capital) £9.730m
- Landslip & Retaining Wall Urgent Repair Programme (revenue) £1.750m

Highway Maintenance Programme Budget



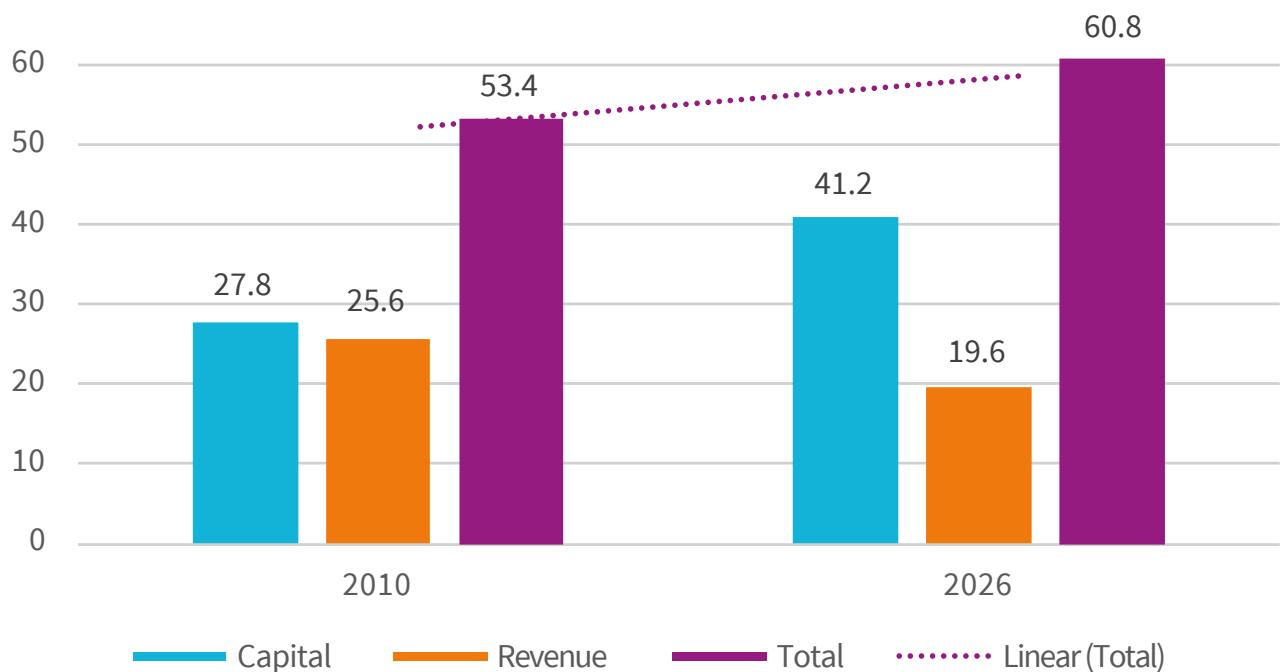
Integrated Transport Programme Budget



Total Fund Allocation 2025-26



Funding (£m) 2010-2026



During the period 2010 to 2026, our funding has decreased, compounded by a significant increase in inflation, reducing our spending power to repair and maintain the roads.

Council Plan Outcomes

Highways will support and facilitate the delivery of the County Council's Outcomes as follows:



Outcome 1 - People: Communities where people live safe, healthy and independent lives

- Help people exercise and improve their mental health by making sure there are walking and cycling routes for people to get outdoors.



Outcome 2 - Place: Great places to live and work

- Continue to improve the way in which people travel around the county.
- Continue to target our investment in the network effectively.
- Continue to improve the quality and efficiency of repairs.
- Continue to respond quickly to road defects and emergencies.
- Continue to improve our Highway drainage and its impact on communities.



Outcome 3 - The Council: Local, high-quality council services

- Continue to listen to residents and involve them in shaping services.
- Continue to provide clear, accessible information and advice.
- Continue to use technology to help deliver modern, accessible services and create a better customer experience.
- The Derbyshire Highways have had several achievements during 2025/2026 including:
 - Delivered the biggest ever capital programme of ~£60m
 - The development of the innovative member-led residential repair programme
 - 80%+ reduction in pothole repair backlog
 - £2.4 million pavement resurfacing programme
 - £3.6 million surface dressing programme
 - Major £350,000 Oker Road landslip repairs completed
 - Major funding secured to tackle road safety along Snake Pass

Our progress in 2025-2026



Carriageways

- Repaired more than 65,000 potholes.
- Improved 56.2 miles of carriageways and 407,516m² of surface dressing.



Pavements

- Improved the surface of 6.22 miles of footway and slurry sealed 10.2 miles of footway.



Public Rights of Way

- Improved the surface of 2.2 miles of Public Rights of Way.
- Renewed or installed 61 fingerposts.
- Completed 55 minor Public Rights of Way Schemes.
- Cleared 117 miles of surface vegetation on Public Rights of Way.



Drainage

- Continued delivery of the cyclic gully cleansing contract.
- Delivered 5 highway drainage capital schemes.
- Carried out 364 drainage defects repairs.



Street lighting

- Delivered 5 capital schemes across the County.
- Subway lighting conversion to LED.
- Inspection and testing of assets.
- Replacement of defective assets.
- Replacement of flashing amber warning lights phase 1.
- Rationalisation of illuminated sign assets phase 1.



Structures schemes

- Countywide principal bridge inspections and associated works
- Delivered 2 highway retaining wall schemes
- Continued work on countywide landslips
- Replacement of defective assets and minor repairs across the County.



Traffic management

- Delivered 9 traffic signal junction schemes.
- Delivered 16 BSIP traffic signal replacement schemes.
- 2 non DCC junction development.
- 5 pedestrian crossings installed.
- 1 traffic signal controller replaced.
- 1 vehicle activated signs installed.



Trees

- The development of a corporate tree risk assessment methodology.



Winter service

- Provided 73 days of gritting and used 13,477 tonnes of salt.



Customer enquiries

- Number of enquiries received: 71,841.

