



Hampshire
County Council

Highways Asset Management Policy

Version Control

Version	Date	Reviewer	Approved by	Comments
v1	May 2011	Asset Management	Exec Member for Economy, Transport & Environment	Approval of 1 st edition
v2	July 2013	Asset Management	Asset Management Planning Group	Amendment to department aims
v3	January 2016	Asset Management	Asset Management Planning Group	Amendment to department objectives
v4	July 2018	Asset Management	Asset Management Planning Group	Amendment to corporate aims
v5	February 2022	Asset Management	Asset Management Planning Group	Amendment to format and minor revisions

Highways Asset Management Policy

Hampshire County Council has one of the largest local authority road networks in the country. It is the most valuable physical asset that the Council is responsible for and is fundamental to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the community.

Hampshire County Council recognises the importance of effective highway asset management and believes it to be fundamental to the delivery of its highway services, long-term objectives, and the aims of the County Council's Strategic Plan:

- Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity
- People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives
- People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment
- People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities

Implementing a highway asset management approach helps us to understand the assets we are responsible for, measure and monitor how they perform, and determine the funding strategies needed to mitigate the demands placed upon them.

This Highways Asset Management Policy has been developed with an associated Asset Management Strategy to ensure that the principles of asset management are embedded in the delivery of our highway services. This enables us to meet and adapt to the ever-changing needs and priorities of the network, and deliver a more efficient, sustainable, and low carbon highway service that supports our climate change aims.

This policy links our asset management objectives with the wider highway and transport objectives, set out below.

Highways are safe, well maintained and resilient. Our priority is to provide a safe, well maintained, and resilient highway network for all who use it. The implementation of robust asset management strategies will enable us to prioritise and target resources and manage the risks to all highway users more effectively.

To deliver this we will:

- Ensure funding is optimised and allocated effectively through comprehensive lifecycle and investment planning processes
- Apply a risk-based approach to highway services and set appropriate maintenance standards and levels of service that prioritise maintenance according to the needs and priorities of the network and highway users
- Deliver cost effective and targeted highway maintenance programmes that balance preventative and planned maintenance activities, minimise whole life costs and improve network resilience
- Communicate and engage with our stakeholders and customers and take account of their needs and priorities

The highway network and transport systems support the economy and are accessible to all. Hampshire County Council recognises the vital role that the highway network and transport systems play in connecting people, goods, and places. As the economy evolves, and the usage and priorities of the highway network change, we will adapt our asset management and maintenance strategies to ensure they support economic development and the Local Transport Plan.

To deliver this we will:

- Ensure that technical guidance and standards related to the design of new infrastructure are applied appropriately to support sustainable development and transport initiatives
- Manage the most strategically important parts of the network through prioritised maintenance to ensure they remain open to maintain economic activity and access to key services and facilities
- Adopt a 'designing for maintenance approach' to ensure that highway infrastructure is designed to minimise future maintenance requirements, whole life costs and limit disruption on the network
- Use more sustainable products and materials, and implement processes that minimise waste, reduce the carbon footprint of the highway service and mitigate the effects of climate change

Travel is safe, accessible and well-managed. A well-managed highway network minimises delays on the network, increases accessibility, and creates more reliable and safer journeys. Implementing a risk-based asset management approach and long-term investment strategies that consider wider transport objectives will ensure that the highway network is fit for purpose, safe and accessible to all highway users.

To deliver this we will:

- Comply with legislation, national guidance and apply best practice to provide a safe and accessible environment for all
- Ensure that the maintenance standards and levels of service applied are inclusive and appropriate to maintain safety on the network for all highway users
- Routinely measure the condition and performance of assets and develop long-term cross asset investment strategies that ensure the best spend of the funding available
- Improve asset data, systems and processes that enhance and improve decision making, risk management and performance monitoring for all highway assets