

Highway Infrastructure Asset Management approach

Background information

The highway infrastructure assets in Nottingham are by far the Council's biggest asset and are valued at almost £1.7 billion. A significant part of that are the carriageways and footways valued at £1.3 billion. The assets are used daily by the majority of the travelling public for commuting, business, social and leisure activities. They are fundamental to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of local communities and to the prosperity of the city.

Like any physical asset, the highway network requires maintenance to manage deterioration. The application of sound asset management principles takes a long-term view of how assets are managed and ensures that the limited available funds are spent on activities that prolong the life, rather than expensive reactive repairs. This will deliver better value for money and maximise efficiency. This is the backbone of the new asset management policy and strategy.

The Well Managed Highway Infrastructure Code of Practice contains 36 recommendations, which local authorities need to consider and adopt in their approach to asset management. The Code recommends a risk-based approach should be adopted for all aspects of highway infrastructure maintenance, including setting levels of service, inspections, response times, resilience levels, priorities and programmes.

The Highway Asset Management Framework, which includes an updated policy and strategy, provides the tools to deliver our approach. All the documents will provide a robust case for why we manage the assets the way we do and how we propose to face the challenges of managing them in the future.

Key pieces of work completed towards the implementation of the new code include:

- **The Highway Asset Management Policy**, which is a short and concise document setting out the Asset Management principles and the Authority's commitment, aligned to corporate policies.
- **The Highway Asset Management Strategy** sets out the implementation of policy; it is delivery focused and explains the benefits of investment.
- **The Highway Asset Management Framework**, includes an updated policy and strategy, provides the tools to deliver our approach
- **The Network Maintenance Hierarchy Strategy** defines the current and expected use of every road section in Nottingham (not just the classified roads) and takes into account local economic and social factors to determine levels of service, treatment types and appropriate response times.
- **The Highway Safety Inspection Manual** sets out Nottingham City's approach to the safety inspection process outlined in the Code of Practice. A full review of our inspection regime, investigation levels for all types of

carriageway and footway defects and appropriate response times, with due consideration to their location on the hierarchy and completion of a full risk-based assessment

- **The Highway Asset Management Communication Strategy** recognises that the citizens of Nottingham and users of the highway network, whether on foot, cycling, public transport or car have a right to be informed of the work we do and the impact of that work on how they live their lives and go about their daily business.
- **The Highway Risk Management Policy**, which identifies the current and future risks associated with highway assets at an operational level and aligned with the authority's corporate approach and management of risk.

Finance comments

Not having the appropriate documents and practices in place will potentially cost the authority £186k per annum, which is 10.4% of our highway maintenance allocation from Department for Transport.

Legal comments

Implementation of the Well Managed Highway Infrastructure Code of Practice: October 2016 is fundamental to our statutory duty of keeping the highway safe and free from obstruction, as set out in the Highways Act 1980.