

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	23 March 2017
Title:	Implications of New National Highways Code of Practice
Reference:	8200
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. Executive Summary

1.1. This paper seeks to inform the Executive Member for Environment and Transport of the new national Code of Practice: 'Well-managed Highway Infrastructure' (October 2016) ("the Code") and the need to amend some areas of the current highway service in order to comply with this code. To achieve this, Hampshire County Council will need to develop a risk based approach in a number of areas of highway service delivery.

2. Contextual information

2.1. The new Code for well managed highway infrastructure combines the three previous codes into one document. The three codes were:

- Well Maintained highways;
- Management of Highway Structures; and
- Well Lit Highways.

2.2. Adopting the new Code will require the involvement of a number of staff and create a substantial amount of work for the Highways Traffic and Transport Service Stream.

2.3. The Code contains 36 recommendations. (Refer to Appendix 1 for a list of the recommendation headings). To comply with these recommendations the highways service will have to change some of its current working practices. This may result in quite significant changes to highway maintenance and management policies, or more minor amendments to current processes and procedures. Once identified, any significant changes to either policy or service provision will be brought to future Executive Member decision days for consideration before October 2018.

2.4. The key change from the previous suite of Codes is a move away from prescriptive standards for maintaining highway assets to a risk-based

approach. The risk based approach allows Highway Authorities to define their own service levels and standards. In some circumstances this may relieve the obligations placed upon the Highway Authority by the old Codes. However developing and applying a risk based approach will require evidence to support the service decisions made.

- 2.5. The work to transform the service to align with the new Code has not been fully assessed but an initial review has identified key areas for focus and the need to include legal services from within the Authority.
- 2.6. Aligning with the new Code and applying a risk based approach is one of the objectives in the Highway Asset Management Strategy. This strategy is being updated and a report is on today's agenda.

3. Finance

- 3.1. It is currently envisaged that the transitional work will be managed within existing resources.
- 3.2. The Code has been developed to allow Highway Authorities to define their own service levels without additional cost to the Authority.

4. Consultation and Equalities

- 4.1. This report is for information regarding compliance with a new national Code of Practice. Any need to consult on specific issues has yet to be identified.
- 4.1. This report is for information regarding compliance with a new national Code of Practice. Impacts upon people with protected characteristics will be assessed as and when significant changes are made to policies in order to make the Authority compliant with the new code.

5. Future direction

- 5.1. The Department for Transport has stated that Highway Authorities should be in a position to comply with this new Code by October 2018. At that time the old suite of codes will be made obsolete.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1. That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport notes the content of the new code of practice 'Well-managed Highway Infrastructure' issued by the Department for Transport in October 2016, and delegates authority to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to make arrangements to ensure the County Council is compliant with the new code by October 2018.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Well-managed Highway Infrastructure: A Code of Practice</u>		<u>October 2016</u>

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

This report is for information regarding compliance with a new national Code of Practice. Impacts upon people with protected characteristics will be assessed as and when significant changes are made to policies in order to make the Authority compliant with the new code.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1 No impact upon crime and disorder is anticipated from this proposal, which is to commence work to make Hampshire County Council compliant with a new national code of practice, from which future recommendations to the Executive Member may follow and will be duly assessed.

3. Climate Change:

3.1. How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

- 3.2. How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

This report is for information regarding the compliance with a new national Code of Practice. The new Code has recommendations regarding climate change and these will be considered in this review.