

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

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| Decision Maker: | Executive Member for Environment and Transport |
| Date: | 23 March 2017 |
| Title: | Highway Asset Management Strategy |
| Reference: | 8201 |
| Report From: | Director of Economy, Transport and Environment |

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to request that amendments to the current version of Hampshire's Highway Asset Management Strategy are recorded and approved.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. Hampshire's Highway Asset Management Strategy was first approved by the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment in 2011. Since then there have been regular amendments to ensure consistency with national direction and to reflect continuous improvement. This is the fourth update of the strategy.
- 2.2. National good practice documents relating to Highway Asset Management include the:
 - Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Guidance (HIAMG), May 2013;
 - Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure: A Code of Practice, Oct 2016; and
 - Department for Transport Incentive Fund guidance and self assessment requirements, issued in 2015 and updated annually.

These documents strongly recommend that a Highway Asset Management Strategy is adopted and embedded in the highway service.

- 2.3. Since the issue of the Incentive Fund Self-Assessment guidance in 2015 Hampshire has developed and is implementing a number of new initiatives.

This work has provided the necessary evidence to allow Hampshire to self assess as a Band 3 Authority, which in turn maximises funding from the Department for Transport over the next few years.

- 2.4. This latest version of the Strategy, version 4, incorporates the concepts of continuous improvement identified in the Department for Transport's Incentive Fund guidance. See Appendix 1 for Hampshire's Highway Asset Management Strategy – version 4.
- 2.5. The key changes to version 4 describe Hampshire's asset management approach to managing risk, performance, and service delivery. The changes also extend the Council's aims and objectives (Section 9) in meeting national good practice, such as:
 - Adapting the Council's highway service to comply with the new Code of Practice, Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure, by applying a risk based approach.
 - Designing with maintenance in mind to ensure that materials and designs provide the best solution for now and the future;
 - Ensuring that processes for adopting new highway infrastructure meet the demands of asset management;
 - Continuing to improve communications with stakeholders regarding the highway service; and
 - Developing asset information to improve service delivery and where possible provide efficiencies.

3. Finance

- 3.1. Achieving full implementation of all the recommendations set out in the documents listed above will help to maximise structural maintenance funding for Hampshire as described in the Governments current proposals for Local Highway Authority structural maintenance to 2020/21.

4. Performance

- 4.1. There are performance related items in the strategy document. The implementation of a performance management framework (PMF) is a key requirement in both the HIAMG and the Incentive Fund Self-Assessment. This strategy outlines the approach to performance management in the framework but it does not specify actual measures and targets.
- 4.2. However, the Highway Traffic and Transport Service Stream has identified initial strategic performance measures and these will be used to inform Service Delivery Planning in 2017/18.

5. Consultation and Equalities

- 5.1 This strategy document sets out the County Council's approach to highways asset management. The proposed changes to the Strategy document will not amend the existing approach to assessing and mitigating impacts upon people with protected characteristics.

6. Other key issues

- 6.1. The current direction for Government highway structural maintenance funding promotes competition for funds and requires evidence to support any assessment or bid. This decision will help to ensure that Hampshire's Highway Asset Management Strategy is up to date.

7. Future direction

- 7.1. Hampshire's Highways Asset Management Strategy is reviewed annually by the Asset Management Planning Group and any major amendments required to reflect changes to national good practice or Hampshire County Council aims and objectives will be considered and reported to the Executive Member as appropriate. Minor textual changes and progress updates will be carried out by the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment under delegated authority.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1. That the amendments to Hampshire's Highway Asset Management Strategy, being version 4, are approved.
- 8.2. That this version 4 of the Hampshire Highways Asset Management Strategy supersedes and replaces the currently published document as the basis for operational highways management.

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

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| 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

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| Links to previous Member decisions: | | |
| Hampshire's Highway Asset Management Strategy Version 3. | <u>Reference</u> | <u>Date</u> Jan 2016 |
| Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives | | |
| Government capital funding initiatives for highway maintenance 15/16 – 20/21 and related Autumn budget statements. | | <u>Date</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 strategy document sets out the County Council's approach to highways asset management. The proposed changes to the Strategy document will not amend the existing approach to assessing and mitigating impacts upon people with protected characteristics.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. It is not thought that the update of the Hampshire Highways Asset Management Strategy will have an impact upon crime and disorder.

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?

Adapting to climate change and providing resilience to the highway network is one of the Government's key drivers for asset management and is

incorporated into this strategy by implementing the relevant recommendations in the documents described in item 2.2.