

Transport for Buckinghamshire

**Contract Director
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**Buckinghamshire County Council
Place Service**

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Date: 12th Nov 2016
Ref: Inspection Policy

Dear Sir / Madam.

Revised Highway Safety Inspection Policy

Buckinghamshire County Council in partnership with Transport for Buckinghamshire have produced a draft revision to the existing Highway Safety Inspection Policy. This is to bring the existing Policy into line with the latest national guidance issued by the UK Roads Liaison Group and contained within the document 'Well Managed Highway Infrastructure - Code of Practice', published Oct 2016. This document promotes a risk based approach to highway maintenance, encourages the consideration of risk posed by defects due to severity, impact, location and the likelihood of the defect being encountered by road users. It moves away from the more prescriptive approach used within the existing Highway Safety Inspection Policy.

In particular, the Policy revision facilitates:

- Inspectors must assess and categorise each defect according to the risk posed to road users by that defect and instruct repairs within timescales according to that categorisation.
- Increased ability to categorise defects as high priority or emergency should the inspector consider an immediate danger to be presented by the defect.
- An ability to co-ordinate programmes of repair of less significant defects leading to more efficient working and reduced network disruption through repeat individual visits.
- Alignment of inspection frequencies to the existing road hierarchy, increasing inspection frequencies on routes containing bus routes, schools, public or emergency services and routes of strategic importance.

This is now the start of a formal consultation on the revised policy and gives you the opportunity to have your say on the proposal, which forms part of the statutory consultation process.

It is anticipated that by adopting the proposal, the revised Policy will allow for a more flexible regime to the programming of defect repairs, whilst ensuring that priority repairs are undertaken within short duration timescales where necessary. This will provide the ability for Transport for Buckinghamshire to better coordinate the programming of individual defect repairs by combining several elements of reactive work into one co-ordinated visit.

Other anticipated benefits of adopting the new policy will include;

- Enhanced response to customer requests for priority defect repairs
- Improved overall quantity and quality of repairs within available budgets
- Improved opportunities for collaborative working
- Reduction of Transport for Buckinghamshire's carbon foot-print through more efficient working.



This formal consultation will run until 12th Dec 2016 and you can respond by sending your comments to; tfbschemesdelivery@buckscc.gov.uk

Or send your comments to:

Highway Safety Inspection Policy Consultation
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Yours faithfully.

Simon Dando
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