

T11 - Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy – Version 2 June 2017

Introduction

Buckinghamshire County Council's 3,200km highway infrastructure is its most valuable asset, valued at £4.6bn. It provides a transport network for both businesses and private users and is critical in supporting the three main Aims of the County Council's Strategic Plan (2017-20):

- Safeguarding our vulnerable
- Creating opportunities and building self-reliance
- Ensuring Buckinghamshire is thriving and attractive

Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB) translates these three Aims into five asset management Objectives which provide a clear line of sight between the Council's aims and TfB's activities; Objectives designed to communicate the levels of service provided by TfB:

- Maintain a safe network
- Manage highways effectively and efficiently
- Maximise network availability
- Optimise the use of and protect the availability of natural resources
- Improve accessibility for all

Asset Management Principles

In meeting its objectives TfB takes a rigorous, data driven approach to understanding the condition and needs of the highways network. This provides assurance to Members that work programmes are selected and prioritised in a consistent manner based on sound information. Work programmes are designed to contribute to achieving the five objectives based on good intelligence and an understanding of the needs of the Community. An Asset Management Framework has been developed to ensure works programmes implemented on the highway meet those objectives.

The Framework recognises and develops the Highway Maintenance Efficiency Programme's (HMEP) Asset Management Guidance Document (May 2013) and its 14 recommendations, and the UK Roads Liaison Group's document Well-managed Highway Infrastructure – a Code of Practice (Oct 2016) and its 36 recommendations. These documents endorse timely treatment interventions to promote sustainable use of resources.

Asset Management Activities

The AM Framework consists of this Policy, a Strategy, a Performance Management Framework and a number of plans developed to establish a series of consistently selected and risk-based maintenance programmes that are compliant with relevant regulations and guidance. The risk-based approach identifies the most appropriate and effective treatments according to the criticality of assets to take the optimum course of action in meeting the Council's Aims and TfB's Objectives, and to achieve the most efficient use of resources.

A Communications Strategy ensures that relevant information is provided to key stakeholders (including Members) to inform the setting of performance targets, budgets and in making key decisions, including forward works programmes. These forward works programmes are developed, integrated and coordinated to make best long-term use of resources to maintain a safe network, improve accessibility, maximise network availability and manage highways effectively and efficiently.

Competent personnel are required to implement the Framework which includes provision for training and development to enhance asset management understanding and knowledge. This Framework's performance is monitored and reviewed regularly to ensure a process of continual improvement in both its systematic approach and the value derived from maintenance activities carried out across the highway infrastructure.