

Overarching Highway Services Policy

Introduction

The County Council works to provide Highway Services to manage, maintain and improve Buckinghamshire's transport network. The Highway Services are designed to support the Council's obligations as highway authority and its transport policies in LTP4 and in doing this support the three main aims of the Council as set out in their Strategic Plan 2017/20:

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

BCC's Asset Management Policy and Strategy are designed to coordinate the Service's activities to realise value from its assets in support of those aims, and this overarching Highway Services Policy sets out the approach for delivering Highway Services through the following Asset Management Objectives:

- AMO1:** Maintain a Safe Network
- AMO2:** Manage Highways Effectively and Efficiently
- AMO3:** Maximise Network Availability
- AMO4:** Optimise the Use of and Protect the Availability of Natural Resources
- AMOS:** Improve Accessibility for All

Highways Services Policy

BCC adopts Well Managed Highway Infrastructure, a Code of Practice providing guidance on highways management. Our Policy is to follow an integrated asset management approach to highway infrastructure investment based on establishing local levels of service through an evidence-led, risk-based assessment. This Policy sits alongside the Authority's Asset Management Policy and Strategy as shown in the diagram. This Policy covers the approach to running the highway network, whilst the Asset Management Policy and Strategy set out the Authority's approach to investing in its highway infrastructure.



Individual Service Policies

In support of this Overarching Highway Services Policy, the service's four Individual Service Policies (Network Safety, Safety Inspections, Network Management and Winter Service) set out how service provision meets local needs and priorities in delivering the Council's aims and objectives, taking account of risks and affordability. Relevant datasets are evaluated to assess risk and are used to evidence the levels of service set. The annual business planning process develops reasonable levels of service for all service areas taking account of risks, local needs, priorities and affordability, and are published through annual Service Statements.

The annual business planning process and medium term financial plan sets out the investment in the Council's highway infrastructure assets to provide a combined Capital and Revenue funded plan for asset management and highway service delivery.

The Service's performance is managed through the Performance Management Framework (PMF) that includes both output and outcome indicators to demonstrate that the service is meeting its activity targets (outputs) and its Service Levels (outcomes). The PMF manages performance across BCC's asset management activities and highway services, delivering against both its Asset Management and Highway Services Policies.

Competencies

All staff employed by the Service understand their respective roles and responsibilities, and through the Competency Matrix and Training Plan, development needs are embedded in individuals' Personal Development Plans.

Governance

This Policy is approved by Cabinet and reviewed annually. The four individual service policies are reviewed periodically, approved by the Cabinet Member and embedded in the relevant business plans for each service area. The Service Statements arising from the annual business planning and approval process are reviewed and approved by the Operational Management Board. The annual business plans are approved by the Strategic Board and Cabinet Member.