

Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy

April 2015 to March 2022



Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy

Wigan Council is responsible for managing the boroughs highway infrastructure and it recognises the essential role of the highway infrastructure in supporting the council's vision and strategic priorities.

The highway infrastructure is a vital element in making the most of the borough's fantastic location and ensuring people can easily travel within the borough and to surrounding cities, amenities and attractions and creating new employment opportunities for our residents and businesses. The highway infrastructure is the most valuable community asset under our control, currently valued at around £1.6bn. As such the council places a high significance on its highway infrastructure and the long term investment in its management, development and maintenance.

Therefore, how we invest is critical to achieving the best use of the available funding and resources that deliver the right outcome for our customers and secure the optimum lifecycle and condition of the assets.

A number of the primary challenges that need to be considered to effectively manage the highway infrastructure are:

limited budgets that mean we need to create a culture of making the best use of existing assets;

- limited staff resources that mean we need to collaborate and learn from and share best practice;
- optimise lifecycle of a mature highway network with a backlog of maintenance requirements;
- Increasing public expectations for accessibility and availability of the highway network with reliability of journey times;
- Increasing scrutiny, transparency, accountability and media exposure in delivering legal requirements, meeting

stakeholder expectations and maintaining the engineering integrity of the network;

- Managing future demands on the network and impact of traffic growth; and
- Understanding and managing the impacts of climate change.

Therefore, Wigan Council has adopted an Asset Management approach to managing and maintaining its highway infrastructure. The Institute of Asset Management define Asset Management, in Publicly Available Specification (PAS) 55, as:

‘systematic and coordinated activities and practices through which an organisation optimally and sustainably manages its assets and asset systems, their associated performance, risks and expenditures over their life cycles for the purpose of achieving its organisational strategic plan.’

This is a systematic and strategic approach that will enable us to make decisions over what services we want to provide and what we can achieve within our financial resources. It enables us to identify the best allocation of our resources for the management, operation, preservation and enhancement of the highway infrastructure to meet the needs of current and future demands.

Our primary focus will be on achieving the following objectives:

- Asset and user safety by complying with our statutory duties and obligations;
- Service performance by ensuring our services meet agreed delivery timescales and standards whilst achieving the target condition of the assets; and
- Sustainability through optimising the whole life cycle and costs of maintaining the asset, with reduced impacts to the environment.

We will achieve our objectives by developing an effective Highway Asset Management Strategy (HAMS) which will support the development of our Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP). Our HAMP will set out how we will best manage the highway network taking into consideration:

- customer needs and desired levels of service;
- lifecycle planning to inform investment, management and treatment decisions;
- balancing competing needs of the highway infrastructure assets and selecting options that best meet desired outcomes;
- efficient and effective service delivery;

- network resilience to ensure continuity of service;
- meeting current user needs and planning for future transportation demands;
- development of a continuous improvement approach to asset management policies and practices; and
- empower and motivate the entire workforce involved in the operation and maintenance of the highway network.

Wigan Council also aim to be a high performing authority that uses its resources well, investing in the **'right treatment, at the right place, at the right time'** to secure a long term sustainable future for the highway infrastructure for the borough.

Signed 

Leader of the Council

Signed 

Chief Executive

Signed 

Finance (Section 151) Officer