

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**KEVIN DEANUS, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND
COMMUNITY RESILIENCE DECISIONS****DATE: 20 DECEMBER 2022****LEAD OFFICER: KATIE STEWART, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENT
TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE****SUBJECT: HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT ASSET MANAGEMENT
STRATEGY UPDATE****ORGANISATION STRATEGY PRIORITY AREA: GROWING A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY SO EVERYONE CAN
BENEFIT
ENABLING A GREENER FUTURE
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES****PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

Best practice guidance suggests that a Local Authority's Highway Asset Management Strategy should be updated every two years.

This report recommends approval of updates to the Highways & Transport Asset Management Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member approves the updated Highways & Transport Asset Management Strategy.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Highway & Transport Asset Management Strategy (The Strategy) sets out how Surrey County Council (SCC) manages its highway infrastructure assets with consideration to whole life costs, associated risks and alignment with Surrey's corporate objectives.

In 2018, future approvals of the Strategy were delegated by Cabinet to the Highways lead Cabinet Member. The Strategy is reviewed and updated every two years and, as such, this update is coming to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Resilience for approval in December 2022.

DETAILS:**Highways & Transport Asset Strategy – Key updates**

1. This update reflects advice in the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Guidance document, commissioned by the Department for Transport, and is in line with the 2-year revision milestone set out in the Guidance

2. The adoption of the new Surrey Transport Plan, also known as LPT4, on 12 July 2022 is a significant recent change in policy and strategy for the County Council. In response to the new transport plan, we are undertaking work to consider how highway maintenance can help achieve the objectives of LTP4 which include; net zero carbon emissions, sustainable growth, well-connected communities, clean air and excellent quality of life.
3. The Asset Planning Team is working with colleagues across the Environment, Transport and Infrastructure (ETI) Directorate on a review project, undertaking research and analysis to understand the risk and usage of our network by different highway users, in order to make evidence-based recommendations for changes to highway procedure and policy. This piece of work is referenced in the updated Asset Strategy being considered here, however any subsequent changes determined as a result of the review project are expected from late 2023 onward.
4. ETI colleagues and the Communities, Environment and Highways (CEH) Select Committee Member reference group are being consulted as part of the above ongoing project work and will continue to receive updates and be involved as the work progresses.
5. Further to the review project focussed on LTP4 mentioned above, other changes in the Strategy are as follows:
 - a. An updated section under the heading 'Service Wide Alignment' describing the ETI IT & GIS strategy and the new Brightly Confirm Asset & Works Management System
 - b. An updated section under the heading 'Service Wide Alignment' describing the change in the Highway Term Maintenance contractor from Kier to Ringway in April 2022
 - c. An updated section reflecting the new process for the public and elected members to suggest scheme locations for consideration and assessment for maintenance
 - d. An update to the 'New technology, information sources, Innovation' section to reflect changes to the structure of the Innovations Groups. This includes new examples of new technologies being implemented such as:
 - i. Carbon production assessment of each activity within the Highways Service to identify highest impact and target carbon reduction efforts. SCC are working with the Future Highway Research Group (FHRG) on the development of a carbon analyser tool to measure the carbon output of all highway maintenance activities.
 - ii. The trial and introduction of a new method of collecting road condition and asset data using image recognition software via the Vaisala RoadAI system

- e. An update to the 'Other Funding' section to reflect the current situation with regards to other funding sources and how SCC's approach aligns to national policy and opportunities
- f. An updated description of how the Strategy relates to the Cycle Infrastructure strategy referenced within the LTP 4.
- g. An update to the section 'Risk-based hierarchies and resilient network' to better reflect how the Strategy supports management of a resilient network.
- h. An updated reference to Surrey's Vision, Climate Change and LTP4 Strategies
- i. A general update of costs, values and asset statistics where required.
- j. The addition of links to SCC web pages and other resources where appropriate
- k. An update to how highway maintenance activities are set out and monitored through the Performance Framework

CONSULTATION:

- The following officers were key contributors to the update of the Strategy Matt Gallop – Policy & Programme Team Leader, Asset Planning Team
 - Jakub Durden – Asset GIS Team Leader, Asset Planning Team
 - Sarah Sumner – Asset Project Manager, Asset Planning Team
 - Dan Squibb – Asset Planning Team Manager
 - Roger Williams – Active Travel Programme Manager
 - Amanda Richards – Asst Director, Highways Network and Asset Management
 - Mike Dawson – Technical Support and Communication Manager
6. With regards to the alignment with the Local Transport Plan, colleagues from across ETI and the CEH Select Committee Highways Reference Group have been consulted and will continue to be involved in the ongoing review project.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

7. No new risk implications are introduced by this Strategy update.

Financial and value for money implications:

8. There are no new costs resulting from this Strategy update.
9. The Highway & Transport Asset Management Strategy refers to how maintenance programmes are prioritised and how budgets are allocated to schemes within the agreed Highways capital budget allocation. There is a separate governance process in place for reviewing, prioritising and agreeing

the overall capital budget with decisions being taken within the overall affordability constraints of the council's budget. Highway's capital budgets are reviewed and scrutinised by an Infrastructure board who make recommendations to the Capital Programme Panel (CPP). The CPP reviews the overall County capital programme which is then agreed during the annual budget setting process for the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

Section 151 Officer commentary:

10. Although significant progress has been made to improve the Council's financial position, the financial environment remains challenging. The UK is experiencing the highest levels of inflation for decades, putting significant pressure on the cost of delivering our services. Coupled with continued increasing demand and fixed Government funding this requires an increased focus on financial management to ensure we can continue to deliver services within available funding. In addition to these immediate challenges, the medium-term financial outlook beyond 2022/23 remains uncertain. With no clarity on central government funding in the medium term, our working assumption is that financial resources will continue to be constrained, as they have been for the majority of the past decade. This places an onus on the Council to continue to consider issues of financial sustainability as a priority in order to ensure stable provision of services in the medium term.
11. The Asset Management Strategy will help to ensure the Council makes best use of available resources and provides value for money to residents, by prioritising highway works within the approved budget envelope. As such, the Section 151 Officer supports the recommendations.

Legal implications – Monitoring Officer:

12. The County Council has a statutory duty under s41 of the Highways Act 1980 to maintain the fabric of the publicly maintainable highway, which includes drainage.
13. The County also has a duty under s130 of that Act to assert and protect the right of the public to the use and enjoyment of any highway.
14. The national Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance seeks to be useful guidance for authorities to incorporate when developing their approach in accordance with local needs, priorities and affordability. While its status is guidance and adoption of the recommendations within the document is a matter for each Highway Authority. Such guidance informs best practice nationally and is persuasive. The Code of Practice recommends that an Asset Management and Policy be developed and endorsed by senior decision makers.
15. The County's updated Highways and Transport Asset Management Strategy seeks to determine how the County will of necessity prioritise and deliver the work required to satisfy these statutory duties. This is also necessary in order to demonstrate that Department for Transport (DfT) requirements for funding

are met. It is updated in line with the 2-year revision milestone set out in the Asset Management Framework.

Equalities and diversity:

16. Following completion of the EIA screening tool, the proposals do not significantly or disproportionately impact on any of the groups protected under the Equality Act 2010. Equality impacts will be considered throughout the project and where relevant an Equality Impact Assessment will be produced.

Other implications:

17. The potential implications for the following Council priorities and policy areas have been considered. Where the impact is potentially significant a summary of the issues is set out in detail below.

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report)
Environmental sustainability	No significant implications arising from this report
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

18. Following approval by the Cabinet Member, the updated document will be added to the web site by 6 January 2023 to replace the existing document that it supersedes:

- a. [Roads and transport policies and plans - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk)

19. The next scheduled review will be for approval by December 2024

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Consulted:
See consulted section above

Annexes:
Annexe 1 – Highways & Transport Asset Management Strategy

Sources/background papers:

[Well Managed Highway Infrastructure; A code of Practice](#)

[Highway Infrastructure Asset Management \(ciht.org.uk\)](http://ciht.org.uk)

Local Transport Plan 4 - [Delivering our transport plan and measuring its success - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](#)
