

HIGHWAYS CAPITAL INVESTMENT DECISION – BRIEFING NOTE

The highway network is the Council's largest capital asset with an estimated replacement cost of £1.6 billion requires regular ongoing maintenance and renewal in order to be kept in a safe and serviceable condition for the travelling public.

With revenue budgets at an historic low for the Council it is essential that Capital Funding is invested to build resilience into this critical infrastructure. The introduction of an Asset Management approach to highway maintenance in Plymouth has enabled the modelling of long-term maintenance strategies, aimed at achieving a number of outcomes:

- Maintaining and improving the condition of the public highway;
- Reinstating the structural integrity of roads
- Improving highway drainage and keeping water off the highway
- Supporting economic growth in the city by improving our transport network and reputation for quality of roads
- Continuing the drive away from a reactive service towards a planned and efficient service

In order to continue to address this ever growing challenge, it is now vital that the city Council remains committed to upholding its statutory obligations and the strategic aims set out in the Highways Asset Management Framework. Therefore, the continuation of capital investment to re-build resilience back into this critical asset is essential. Failure to do so will undermine investment to date and lead to greater deterioration, increased demands on revenue, higher future investment scenarios due to not intervening before end of life and higher risk of litigation due to greater numbers of safety defects occurring.

The Terms & Conditions of the Challenge Funding awarded to PCC, require the output to be reported in September 2021

Allocation of the Funding into the capital highways budget will facilitate the delivery of CO₂ and Energy Reduction incentives across Highways complementing the council's commitment to CO₂ reduction