

HIGHWAY ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY



Introduction

The local highway network is the largest and most visible community asset for which local authorities are responsible. It is used daily by the majority of residents, businesses and those passing through the City and is fundamental to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the community. It helps to shape the character and quality of the local areas that it serves and makes an important contribution to wider local authority priorities, including regeneration, social inclusion, community safety, health and wellbeing.

This policy has been drawn up by the Plymouth Highways Service as part of the ongoing development and review of its overall Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (HIAMP). The effective management of our public infrastructure forms a core task for the Service and this policy extends the principles and practice that have been developed in the management of highway assets and applies them to the wider transport infrastructure managed by the Service.

Policy Context

The Council shares the following strategic vision as Britain's Ocean City, with its 2020 partners, for Plymouth:

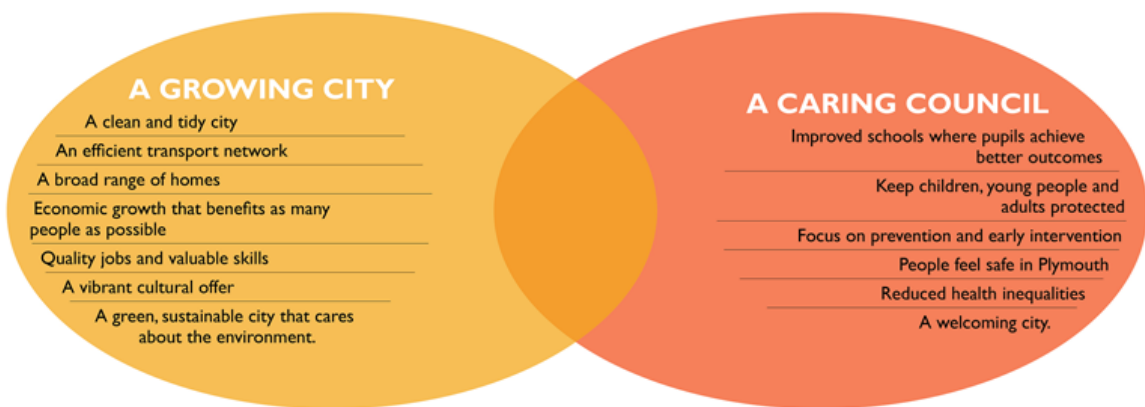
**“To be one of Europe’s finest, most vibrant waterfront cities,
where an outstanding quality of life is enjoyed by everyone.”**

OUR MISSION Making Plymouth a fairer city, where everyone does their bit.

OUR VALUES



OUR PRIORITIES



Delivering the Outcomes

Plymouth City Council recognises that an effective and efficient transport infrastructure underpins the health of the local economy, the vibrancy of local communities and contributes, and enables, delivery of the Council’s vision, objectives, and outcomes.

Taken together, the infrastructure management by the service forms the largest and most valuable public asset within the Council’s control, with a gross value in excess of £1.5 billion.

Policy Statement

Plymouth will manage its transport assets to deliver a safe and well maintained network that is fit for purpose whilst using resources wisely to deliver the best possible value for money. We will do this by continuing to pursue an asset management approach to managing and maintaining transport assets.

Asset management principles enable informed decisions to be made about investment and maintenance funding, assist in the targeting of resources to where they can be most effective, and enables the identification and management of the risks associated with its statutory duties to manage and maintain public infrastructure.

Our Asset Management Mission:

“To provide a highway network that is excellent value, giving our customer’s confidence in the investment decisions we make”

In order to achieve this mission the focus will be on achieving the following outcomes:

Best use of Council Assets and new ways of working

- Continuing to pursue a strategy that aims to deliver maximum benefits for the available resources by, where possible: Moving away from reactive repairs to planned maintenance; considering the whole life cost of solutions to get the best balance between improvements, maintenance and repair; Aiming to intervene with the right treatment at the right time.
- The optimisation and prioritisation of works based on assessed needs, derived from the defined levels of service.
- Continuing to seek further efficiencies and reduced costs by: Planning the delivery of works to avoid unnecessary costs; Working with partners to increase efficiency; Grouping projects into work streams for delivery where this will bring benefits.
- Adopting collaborative and joint working initiatives to deliver effective and efficient services.

Quality services focused on customer needs

- Keeping our city moving by providing the most optimum levels of planned maintenance activities over the lifecycle of all asset types. This will allow the effective coordination of works to reduce road closures and their impacts, as well as providing maximum network availability and reliability, which supports the forward visibility of planned maintenance works.
- Engaging with the public and promoting understanding of the service to help manage public expectations and ensure that, as far as possible, the service meets the needs of local communities by: Ensuring that Councillors are well informed about the service so that they can act as local advocates and meet local needs; Making effective use of communication systems to allow the public easy self-service access to information about services, standards, planned works etc.; The explicit consideration of customer expectations and defined levels of service.

Meeting future infrastructure needs and improved street scene environment

- Implementing our Local Transport Plan that will provide an integrated transport system that maximises cost over time, value to the community and environmental contribution, whilst keeping people healthy and supporting lower carbon transport choices. It will also integrate sustainable solutions and treatments, which minimise waste and landfill, at the centre of our approach to highway maintenance.

- Providing a safe network supporting the delivery of road safety initiatives, to help to reduce road traffic accidents and giving our users confidence to feel safe on the network.

Performance and Risk Management

The mitigation and management of risks and performance issues are covered in subsidiary asset specific documents and Engineering Standards that form part of the overall Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan.

The effectiveness and application of this policy will be regularly monitored as part of the ongoing management of the Plymouth Highways service, which will be formally reviewed as part of the Highways Annual Plan.

Key to this will be the ability to make good, informed decisions, which is core to the asset management approach. This will be supported by:

- Maintaining an appropriate level of knowledge and expertise within the Plymouth Highways team
- Regular and appropriate training and development of staff
- Keeping up to date with developments and innovations
- Working closely with benchmarking groups and industry partners such as: the South West Highways Alliance (SWHA); the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT); the Local Council Roads Innovation Group (LCRIG) and; the National Highways and Transport Network (NHT)
- Building, developing and maintaining good documentation and processes
- Regular Review of Highways and Transport Policies, Strategies and Plans to ensure continued alignment with Corporate Aims and Objectives and Best Practice
- Engaging in regional and national development work.

Consultation and Engagement

In drafting this policy, we have taken note of public perception surveys and feedback drawn from relevant consultation.

This policy will be made available on the Council's website as part of the suite of documents available to all interested parties.

Evaluation and Review

This Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Version December 2018