



**Nottinghamshire  
County Council**

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# **Asset Management Strategy 2022 - 2027**

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## Contents

Foreword .....	3
1. Introduction .....	4
2. Our Asset Management Culture .....	5
Asset Management Leadership .....	5
Asset Management Governance .....	5
Asset Management Ownership.....	5
3. Supporting Our Ambitions.....	6
4. Preparing for the Future.....	7
5. Our Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy.....	8
6. Key Assets.....	9
7. Delivering Our Asset Management Approach.....	10
Customer Expectations.....	10
Communication.....	10
Key Asset Strategies .....	10
Data Management .....	10
Cross Asset Prioritisation.....	11
Right First Time.....	11
Competencies / Training.....	11
Innovation & Continuous Improvement.....	11
Sustainability .....	11
8. Performance Reporting.....	12
9. Review of this Strategy .....	12



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## Foreword

Over 12 months ago a cross-party Highways Review Panel was established to address residents' concerns and to review a range of areas of highways management. The Review was the catalyst to identify areas of improvement to the highways service and to align it to the new Council Plan. One of the main drivers of the Review was to improve communication and customer satisfaction. The Review also identified the importance of having up to date asset management documents

I am therefore pleased to introduce Nottinghamshire's asset management strategy, which describes our refreshed approach to managing our highway network.

Nottinghamshire has long been an exponent of asset management, our updated and revised strategy takes us further on our asset management journey to provide our residents with a safe, serviceable and resilient highway network, this is exemplified by our emphasis applying the right intervention at the right time as well as our whole street approach.

Many authorities see asset management as a maintenance driven activity, but it is so much more than that. We will put asset management at the forefront of all that we do from initial concepts for new schemes, housing estates and infrastructure upgrades through to maintenance and how we use our assets so that we provide our customers with the service they really need.

The key to effectively managing our highway assets is to understand and listen to our customers and stakeholders, identify their needs, and future aspirations, knowing these values and what satisfies our customers will enable us to deliver the right level of service.

Like most local authorities in this period of post pandemic recovery we need to make the most of every pound spent on our network, for Nottinghamshire this means being able to balance investment across our highway assets.

To enable us to balance asset performance, risk and investment we will ensure that we are making better use of our data, so that we can identify potential issues such as flooding or for early detection and prediction of future defects.

We strive to better connect our activities and innovate so that we can deliver and continually improve the services we offer, this strategy will aid us to achieve our ambitions and continue our journey to deliver a safe, reliable, and resilient highway network.

## Our vision and ambitions

*"A healthy, prosperous and greener future for everyone"*



## 1. Introduction

Nottinghamshire's highway network asset is the largest and most valuable public asset within the County Council's control. Through our efforts, we strive to ensure that highway network assets are meeting the needs and expectations of our stakeholders and our communities.

Over the years through our asset management approach much has been achieved, enabling us to continue to deliver a safe, serviceable and resilient highway network.

This Nottinghamshire Highways Asset Management Strategy (HIAMS) builds upon the achievements of our previous asset management strategy, setting out how the Highway Asset Management Policy will be achieved and how we will manage our highway assets

Our Strategy reflects the latest national policy, the changed way in which people are living their lives, following the post pandemic recovery and considers key contemporary issues such as sustainability, the environment and climate change.

Nottinghamshire's asset led approach enables us to deliver a more efficient and effective approach to the management of highway infrastructure assets through longer term planning and ensuring that levels of service are defined and achievable within the constraints of our budgets.



## 2. Our Asset Management Culture



Nottinghamshire County Council has a strong asset management culture, everyone from employees, including those in our Teckal Company, (Via East Midlands Ltd), to suppliers understands how their work impacts the highways service that customers receive from us.

It is through taking personal responsibility for these activities and bringing our teams together to offer a good highways service that we are able to be a successful asset management authority.

### Asset Management Leadership

Leading by example is central to our asset management strategy, our members and senior leaders guide the approach and behaviours required for success.

### Asset Management Governance

At the highest-level Nottinghamshire's Cabinet is accountable for the implementation of our asset management policy and strategy.

Across Nottinghamshire every participant in the highways service, including Via EM Ltd and supply chain, shares responsibility for ensuring an asset management-driven approach.

### Asset Management Ownership

Asset management integrates our skills, shares risks and priorities, and ensures that we are delivering the service that our customers and stakeholders are demanding.

This strategy strengthens a collective responsibility for the condition and performance of Nottinghamshire's highway network. Our highway network is managed by specialists, each an expert in their area, who work together as a team and take responsibility for the delivery of our highways service

### 3. Supporting Our Ambitions

Our strategy enables us to apply the principles of highway asset management to safely manage, maintain, and improve Nottinghamshire’s highways and to support the delivery and realisation of The Nottinghamshire Plan 2021 – 31.

The way we deliver our asset management determines how successful we are in meeting our ambitions and our vision for a healthy, prosperous and greener future for everyone.

We have an asset management framework which includes national / local transport policy, expectations of stakeholders and legal and financial constraints.

This strategy document together with the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy are key strategic documents.

The Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan will set out decision-making, risk management, data management and service levels to achieve our vision for Nottinghamshire.

Within the highway infrastructure asset management framework are a number of documents that have been developed to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy.



## 4. Preparing for the Future

Legislation and local and national commitments have immediate and substantial impact on how we manage our highways service. Our priority is to deliver a safe, serviceable, and resilient network.

To achieve our ambitions alongside the more traditional aspects of our highways service there are a number of contemporary issues that we need to be cognisant of.

Asset management is critical for helping us respond to these contemporary issues. It helps to drive the continuous change and improvement needed, so that we continue to get the best value from our highway network assets for our customers.

We will manage our assets to promote a sustainable environment and reduce environmental impact. Services and works will embrace the digital agenda, new technologies, they will consider improvements to process and procedures to reflect the changing and increasing demand on our aging assets. Designing for maintenance will be at the forefront of our investment and decision making.



### Environment / Biodiversity

Plan maintenance to enhance the environment



### Climate change

Manage the carbon costs of assets throughout their lifecycle



### Decarbonisation

Promote a low carbon approach through the procurement of materials and services



### Resilience

Ensure resilience to extreme weather events



### Digital Agenda

Getting the best from existing data and exploitation of new data, information, and materials



### Customer expectations

Understanding customer and stakeholder needs and aspirations



### Changing network demand

Manage the network hierarchy and inspection process to reflect change in use



### Increased network demand

Managing customer disruption, maintain network availability



### Designing for maintenance

Ensure consideration is given to maintenance during the design & development stage



### Ageing assets

Maintaining the performance and safety of aging assets



### Electric vehicles

Adapting the network to support alternative fuels



### Financial constraints

Enhance the efficiency of managing financial and other constraints

## 5. Our Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy



Asset Management is a strategic approach that seeks to optimise the value of our highway assets over the whole of their lifecycle; it brings together existing practices, systems, policies and approaches to form a coherent picture for individual highway assets and the highway network asset as a whole.

With our strategy, we encourage more aligned decision-making, so that asset investment decisions that affect the network now, can also support the network we are building in the future. Using information and knowledge from across our highways service and supply chain, we ensure the right people are involved in making balanced investment decisions.

Our Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy includes plans for developing and maintaining high-quality asset information. As a result of improved asset information, we will be able to assess risks to our network more accurately. This will enable us to make better-informed decisions about the maintenance and operation of our assets. Adopting the right intervention at the right time approach will reduce the need to use reactive short-term maintenance.

Our teams work across the whole asset lifecycle, knowing that the decisions they make may, affect how future services are provided. By doing so, we anticipate and respond to customer expectations, climate change, and new technological developments.

We seek to continually improve our ways of working, lessons learnt from our activities enhance our overall approach to asset management.

We will use the outputs from asset management processes to support measures that will focus on improving assets that promote 'greener' active modes of travel, improve accessibility and provide healthy and sustainable places for people to live and thrive in.










## 6. Key Assets

Nottinghamshire's highway network plays a strategic role in connecting people and places across the county. It supports the wellbeing of our residents, it enables our communities to thrive, and provides our residents with access to jobs, to learning and to business opportunities.

Our highway network is made up of a diverse range of physical 'assets', such as carriageways, footways, cycleways, highway structures, drainage, street lighting and intelligent transport systems. While each of these has its own unique traits, they are also interdependent, interacting and working together to create an integrated highway network.

These highway network assets are ever changing, to make the most of our assets and deliver a good service for our customers, we make decisions supported by data and information. Regular and consistent condition surveys and highway inspections provide critical data and information on our assets' performance, which we utilise to develop lifecycle plans ensuring that we are intervening at the right time with the right treatment.

	Carriageways 4,456km
	Footways & Cycle tracks 4,337km
	Highway Structures 730 No.
	Gullies 184,241 No.
	Street Lighting 94,790 units
	Traffic Signals 253 No.
	PRoW 3,200km

## 7. Delivering Our Asset Management Approach



We will develop our asset management approach to deliver a safe, serviceable and resilient highway network. We will plan for the long term by Designing for Maintenance, through early engagement with all those wishing to work on our network, ensuring that consideration is given not only to maintenance but also to our sustainability and net zero goals.

### Customer Expectations



Our network has to meet the wide-ranging demands and needs of its users, we will shape our approach to managing and maintaining our assets through listening and understanding our customers.

Asset management enables us to create, maintain, operate and renew our assets effectively and efficiently to a service level that meets the expectations of our customers.

So that the service we provide reflects the needs of our customers, we will

- review customer feedback to understand their priorities and needs
- align our approach to maintaining our assets so that it considers our customers values
- communicate with our customers and stakeholders to help them understand our asset management approach and how it aligns to their requirements
- develop levels of service that balance cost, risk and performance

### Communication



Effective communication allows us to build a shared asset management culture by better understanding our customers, stakeholders and importantly our teams.

To ensure that communication is a listening and learning two-way process, we will develop an asset management communications strategy internally and externally

### Key Asset Strategies



Within our Highway Infrastructure Asset Management plan we will set out our approach to managing key asset groups in line with our corporate ambitions and in response to performance requirements and funding. These strategies will identify the specific challenges, risks, opportunities that each asset group faces.

To deliver the most from our asset strategies we will invest in

**Data Management** – we recognise the need to better use our data and to improve the information that we hold – to be future ready we will

- establish clear requirements for asset data
- fill existing gaps in data and information

- capture data efficiently and effectively so that it is easy to use, it is current and reliable

**Cross Asset Prioritisation** – we will develop a methodology to deliver the most from our investment choices across our asset groups

**Right First Time** – through identifying efficient and timely interventions on our assets we will be able to maximise and to get the most value from our investments whilst maintaining asset condition and performance. To enable us to achieve this we will

- Utilise data and information to understand the existing needs of our assets, and develop tools to analyse their predicted future need
- Define a prioritisation matrix, to develop forward works programmes to maintain asset condition and performance

### Competencies / Training



Our staff are our most important resource, we will provide training and development to all our staff, so they have the skills and tools they need to effectively carry out their roles to support our asset management approach and expectations.

We will ensure that our staff understand the vital role that they have in contributing to in deliver our corporate ambitions.

### Innovation & Continuous Improvement



Nottinghamshire is committed to the development of good practice and continuous improvement; we play a leading role in the development of highway asset management both regionally and nationally through a number of forums.

We are committed to learning from our experiences to improve the way we work. Our staff lead continuous improvement by understanding why the task they are performing is important, how it aligns with our corporate ambitions, and identifying new and better techniques.

### Sustainability



We recognise that the decisions that we make through our asset management approach have an impact on our environment and our ability to provide sustainable infrastructure

Through what we do and how we do it we will prioritise the environment and sustainability, to improve biodiversity, to minimise carbon emissions over the lifetime of the asset, improve resilience to severe weather events and to encourage the walking and cycling for healthier lifestyles.

## 8. Performance Reporting



Managing assets better is a continuous cycle. Sharing what we're doing with customers, stakeholders, and colleagues will be an active process. We will develop an annual performance report to demonstrate the complex decisions that we are making for the long-term benefit of the assets are successful.

## 9. Review of this Strategy



We will update this strategy as our corporate ambitions develop and review it on an ongoing basis to make sure its content is still relevant to the challenges and contemporary issues that we face.