

Asset Management Policy 2022 - 2027





Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy 2022 - 27

Context

Asset management is a well-established discipline within Nottinghamshire County Council's Highways Service, since the advent of the Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme (HMEP) guidance in 2013 and more recently the introduction of Well-managed Highway Infrastructure - A Code of Practice in 2018 Nottinghamshire has adopted the principles of highway asset management. These highway asset management principles are used to support a more efficient approach to maintaining highway infrastructure assets.

1. Purpose

Asset management principles are at the heart of Nottinghamshire County Council's approach to managing the highway network asset and will help reduce our impact on the environment. It will also enable us to safely manage, maintain and improve Nottinghamshire's highways.

A publicly accessible and highly valued asset, the Authority is dedicated to providing a high-quality, sustainable highway network system that serves the needs of its residents and stakeholders whilst promoting tourism and supporting business growth.

Asset management principles enable informed decisions about investment and maintenance financing; help direct resources where they are most efficient and enable the identification and management of risks associated with the legal obligations of Nottinghamshire County Council to manage and maintain its highway assets. This approach will ensure that the highway network meets the needs and expectations of the present day and is fit for future generations.

2. Scope of this policy

This policy is applicable to all who represent Nottinghamshire County Council in any capacity including Members, Officers, Consultants, and Contractors all of whom will be informed of their duties and responsibilities with respect to this policy.

Adherence with this Policy is required of the Authority, Consultants, Contractors, small & medium enterprises (SME's), and Undertakers working on the Highway infrastructure asset or using its assets.

This policy is applicable to all public highway infrastructure assets managed and maintained by the Authority.

3. Principles and Commitments

This Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy reflects the ambitions, values, and priorities set out in “The Nottinghamshire Plan 2021 – 31”, specifically, the policy supports each of the nine strategic ambitions

- Helping our people live healthier and more independent lives
- Supporting communities and families
- Keeping children, vulnerable adults and communities safe
- Building skills that help people get good jobs
- Strengthening businesses and creating more good-quality jobs
- Making Nottinghamshire somewhere people love to live, work and visit
- Attracting investment in infrastructure, the economy and green growth
- Improving transport and digital connections
- Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint



Ambition 1 - Helping our people live healthier and more independent lives

A well-managed highway infrastructure has a significant role to play in healthy lifestyle activities. A safe and accessible highway network including facilities such as public rights of way and other country paths, contribute to physical and mental well-being helping communities be safe, active, independent and socially cohesive.

Ambition 2 - Supporting communities and families

A well-managed local road network will ensure that those in greatest need of access to local services have the best possible ease of movement, whilst also facilitating the support to vulnerable people within their own communities.

Ambition 3 - Keeping children, vulnerable adults and communities safe

The use of asset management techniques - which strengthen and maintain the highway network's reliability and resilience - ensure that the highway infrastructure assets safeguard and protect communities from the effects of flooding and other severe weather events.

Ambition 4 - Building skills that help people get good jobs

Maintaining and managing highway assets provides rewarding opportunities for training and development within the County Council and its partners, which include many regional small & medium enterprises (SME's). Creating high-quality apprenticeships, placements and training opportunities, ensure that local people have the right skills and qualifications and enhances social value and brings benefits to local communities

Ambition 5 - Strengthening businesses and creating more good-quality jobs

As a catalyst for success, the highways network supports the Authority to deliver its services for the benefit of the people of Nottinghamshire particularly through the post-pandemic recovery period.

The pandemic has shown that Nottinghamshire can adapt quickly, improving the quality and availability of the highway network removes barriers to mobility thereby enabling residents to have choice and flexibility where to work.

Ambition 6 - Making Nottinghamshire somewhere people love to live, work and visit

A well-planned highway network will give access to safe and healthy travel choices, residents will be able to lead more independent lives. The highway network contributes to community cohesion, through supporting social connection, fostering community pride at the same time increasing safety and reducing crime.

Ambition 7 - Attracting investment in infrastructure, the economy and green growth

Highway asset management provides the framework to manage and maintain vital infrastructure. Infrastructure which is critical for the success of Nottinghamshire's economy through access for goods, services, employment, education, leisure and tourism. A well-maintained and managed highway network is essential to encourage investment in the County and stimulate growth.

Ambition 8 - Improving transport and digital connections

Adopting an asset management decision-making process which is aligned to the County Council's ambitions ensures that highway assets being invested now will also benefit the future highway network thereby supporting Nottinghamshire's ambition to keep the County well connected through providing a sustainable service.

Making the best use of the existing assets, through effective treatments at the right time and the use of appropriate technology, contributes to delivering defined service levels within available budgets.

Ambition 9 - Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint

A system of asset management empowers the authority to meet the challenges of climate change and carbon reduction with the use of digital technology and processes that give it the opportunity to embrace environmental innovation, accelerating the green transition, reducing emissions, improving air quality locally, and protecting biodiversity.

4. Policy Statement

Nottinghamshire County Council has set out within the framework of the new Council Plan for 2021-31 its commitments to work towards a healthy, prosperous and greener future for all of Nottinghamshire's communities. Achieving the Authority's long-term vision relies on utilising effective highway asset management principles for the delivery and success of its services.

To ensure that the principles of highways infrastructure asset management are embedded in the delivery of highways maintenance and improvement of the highway network. A continuous improvement process will be adopted by Nottinghamshire to manage highway infrastructure assets

The authority 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.

In delivering the Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy and Plan, as described in Section 5, we will;

- Communicate with customers and service users and take account of their needs
- Innovate by investing in new processes and using digital technologies
- Deliver modern, efficient, effective and value-for-money services
- Adhere to the relevant statutory requirements for the highway service.
- Develop sound long-term strategic and financial to support our highway maintenance programmes.
- Identify the pressures that new infrastructure projects and development place on maintenance budgets
- Seek to remove redundant assets from the network
- Manage, review and apply continual improvement to the risk-based approach used for maintenance activities in accordance with UK Roads Liaison Group (UKRLG) document Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure: A Code of Practice (WMH)
- Take account of the environmental impact and sustainability of plans and operations
- Identify areas of the network which are vulnerable to adverse weather events and take steps to mitigate this where practicable
- Deliver a safe, serviceable and resilient highway network

5. Implementation

This Policy will be supported and implemented by the development and publication of the following documents

Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy (HIAMS)

The HIAMS will set out how the highway network assets will be managed and how the Highway Asset Management Policy will be achieved.

Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (HIAMP)

The HIAMP supports the Highway Asset Management Policy and Strategy and informs everyone involved in delivery the highway service about how the highway infrastructure is to be managed. The HIAMP provides detailed information to senior decision makers to support investment decisions and enable longer term planning.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

In order for Highway Infrastructure Asset Management principles and methodologies to succeed, key decision makers, such as elected members and those using the service / highway network, need to be committed to supporting the long-term benefits and savings that will result from an asset led approach.

All those involved with highway asset management have an individual responsibility to familiarise themselves with and adhere to this Policy and any associated documents and procedures. For asset management to work day-to-day there should be a collective culture of responsibility.

7. Approval Process

This policy requires Cabinet approval

8. Review

This policy will be reviewed on a two-yearly cycle; the review is designed to respond to any changes over the intervening period.