

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Highway Asset Management Policy

Introduction

The Borough's highways connect people to jobs, education, shopping, recreation and services. They are an essential part of the overall transport network and we need to maximise their potential to connect people to places in a safe and sustainable way.

The highway network is an essential and valuable asset; in fact, Rotherham Council is responsible for 712 miles (1,143 km) of local highways network and it is the most valuable community asset under our control, currently valued at around £1.726 billion. It includes roads, footpaths, street lighting, road markings, road signs, safety barriers, traffic management systems, drainage systems and bridges. **Note:** the Department for Transport also manages some roads in the Borough - the combined 16 miles (25km) length of the M1 and M18 Motorway network.

Corporate Priorities

Rotherham Council places great significance on the management of its highway network within its Corporate priorities which for 2013-16 are:

CP1 - stimulating the local economy and helping people into work.

CP2 - protecting our most vulnerable people and enabling them to maximise their independence.

CP3 - all areas of Rotherham are safe, clean and well maintained

CP4 - helping people from all communities to have opportunities to improve their health and wellbeing.

These inform the service priorities of Environment and Development Services (EDS) where our highways assets are managed; those which relate most directly with the Corporate Priorities are:

- Marketing Rotherham as an attractive business location (links to CP1 above).
- Making sure Rotherham's roads and footpaths are safe to use and that the condition is as good as (or better) than the national average (links to CP3 above).
- Improving the quality of public spaces by better management of street cleansing and grounds maintenance (links to CP3 above).

Statutory Obligation

In addition to meeting our corporate and service priorities, the Council also has a statutory duty under the Highways Act 1980 to maintain our highway network.

Policy Statement

The Council will follow good asset management principles to deliver highway services to achieve its long-term corporate priorities effectively. Through well managed and maintained highways we will keep people and goods moving, providing a resilient network to enhance productivity and support economic growth. Our primary objective is to keep Rotherham's roads and footways in a safe condition and to nationally recognised standards for all our users. Resources will be prioritised and targeted to achieve maximum value for money according to these principles.

Highways Asset Management Plans

The UK Government recommends local highway authorities to publish a Highways Asset Management Plan (HAMP) to set out a strategy to show how their statutory duty will be met and to show how the highways network will be managed and maintained. The Council will publish a new HAMP and Strategy in 2015 which will set out how we intend to:

- Adopt a systematic approach which takes a long term view of how we maintain and manage highway assets.
- Take into consideration whole life costs when maintaining assets through detailed knowledge of the size, safety, condition and value of our highways asset.
- Using our Corporate Priorities as a lead, establish and define what level of service we need from each asset taking into consideration customer expectations.
- Use life cycle planning to monitor and anticipate the future condition of assets and to know when we need to maintain or replace it.
- Optimise assets by the use of a robust evidence based decision making process for the prioritisation of work.
- Adopt a continuous improvement approach to asset management policies and practices to ensure best value for money is achieved to maximise our available funding.

Consultation and Engagement

Engagement has been carried out with key stakeholders on the strategy for managing our highway assets and our decision making process.

Communicating the Policy

This policy will be published on the Council's website (www.Rotherham.gov.uk) along with the associated Highways Asset Management Strategy and Plan.