

Highway Asset Management Policy 2021 – 26

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Growth and Infrastructure

Author: WSP on behalf of BCP Council
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1. Purpose Statement

- 1.1 Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP) believe that effective highway asset management is fundamental to the delivery of its services and the delivery of its long-term vision and strategy for the benefit of the local community.

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.

The highways network asset plays a vital role in enabling BCP Council to prosper and achieve its objectives. BCP Council will ensure that the principles of highways asset management are embedded in the delivery of highways services and the maintenance and improvement of the network.

2. Who the policy applies to

- 2.1 This policy is applicable to all who represent BCP Council in any capacity – Members, Officers, consultants and contractors
- 2.2 This policy is applicable to all public highway infrastructure managed and maintained by the Authority

3. This policy replaces

- 3.1 This policy repeals all previous Asset Management policies and guidance of the legacy councils that were Bournemouth Borough Council, Christchurch Borough Council and Borough of Poole.
- 3.2 Specifically this policy replaces
- Bournemouth Borough Council Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy
 - Borough of Poole Highway Asset Management Policy
 - Dorset Highways Asset Management Policy and Strategic Approach

4. Approval process

- 4.1 This policy requires Cabinet approval.

5. Links to Council Strategies

- 5.1 This policy supports the Corporate Strategy. Asset management is at the core of how the authority's services are designed and delivered.

Sustainable Environment

The asset management strategy sets out how BCP Council will make best use of resources and through effective treatments at the right time or the use of appropriate technology, will minimise the environmental impact of maintenance operations.

Dynamic Places

Adopting an asset management approach, through improving and maintaining the reliability and resilience of the highway network, will ensure that highway infrastructure assets support the delivery of services in the local economy and will support the Council to deliver its services for the benefit of the local community.

Connected Communities

The highway network asset contributes to prosperous communities, encourages social connection, street culture, and a sense of pride while improving safety and reducing crime.

Brighter Futures

An effectively managed local road network will ensure that those people in most need of access to local services have the best ease of movement, whilst also facilitating the support to vulnerable people within their own communities.

Fulfilled Lives

Recognising the importance of a well-managed highway infrastructure is critical for healthy lifestyle activities, like cycling and walking, as well as contributing to physical and mental well-being.

Maintaining a safe and accessible network encourages people of all ages and abilities to get out and about and to live independent lives.

5.2 During the preparation of this policy document due consideration has been given to the following Key Council Strategies:

- Corporate Plan
- Sustainable Transport Plan
- Digital Strategy
- Workforce Strategy
- Health & Wellbeing Strategy
- Climate Change Strategy
- Equality & Diversity

6. The Policy

6.1 BCP Council will ensure that the principles of highways asset management are embedded in the delivery of highways services and the maintenance and improvement of the network.

In delivering our highways asset management strategy and plan we will

- Adhere to the relevant statutory requirements for the service
- Mitigate risks of all sorts to service users and the authority
- Implement a risk based approach to reactive and planned maintenance activities in accordance with national guidelines and codes of practice
- Take account of the environmental impact and sustainability of plans and operations
- Communicate with customers and service users and take account of their needs
- Maximise the return on investment and take a long term approach based upon the whole life cost of maintaining our assets
- Prioritise works using data from engineering surveys and inspections
- Ensure that a preventative maintenance approach is adopted
- Identify areas of the network which are vulnerable to adverse weather events and take steps to mitigate this where practicable.
- Identify the pressures that new infrastructure projects and development place on maintenance budgets
- Seek to remove redundant assets from the network

7. How to use this policy

7.1 Every key decision taken in managing and maintaining the authority's highway network asset needs to be able to demonstrate that it is making the very best use of the highway assets. Ensuring that a risk based, whole life value and customer focused approach to management and maintenance of these assets is applied.

8. Roles and responsibilities

- 8.1 Highway Asset Management principles and methodologies will only be successful if key decision makers, such as Elected Members and those making use of the service/network, are on board and are able to visualise the long term benefits and savings to be made from this approach.

Role	Responsibility
Elected Members	Ensure their behaviour is consistent with the principles of this policy and have a central role to play in ensuring that they are integral to the local authority's aims for Highway Asset Management
Corporate Directors	to be proactive in the promotion of Highway Asset Management
Service Directors	to maintain an overview to ensure effective integration of the principles of Highway Asset Management within their service plans
Managers	to identify appropriate training needs and provide training opportunities
All Staff	to take responsibility and be accountable for their own behaviour

9. Enforcement and sanctions

- 9.1 Non-compliance with this policy may leave the Authority in a position where it is not able to discharge its statutory duty to maintain the Highway Network Asset which in turn will lead to a deterioration of the value and condition of this publicly owned infrastructure.

10. Further information and evidence

- 10.1 Corporate Strategy
- 10.2 Local Transport Plan
- 10.3 Transport Strategy
- 10.4 Highways Asset Management Strategy
- 10.5 Highways Asset Management Plan
- 10.6 Network Management Plan
- 10.7 Communication Strategy
- 10.8 Data Management Plan
- 10.9 Highway Safety Inspection Manual
- 10.10 Risk Management Strategy
- 10.11 Performance Management Strategy

