

DECISION TITLE: Approval of 5-year review of Highway Asset Management Policy documents - KEY/15JAN24/07
ENTER NAME OF CABINET MEMBER EXERCISING DELEGATED POWERS: Councillor Eley, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change
January 2024
Deadline date: N/A

Cabinet portfolio holder: Responsible Director:	Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change, Cllr Gavin Eley Adrian Chapman, Executive Director Place and Economy
Is this a Key Decision?	YES If yes has it been included on the Forward Plan: YES Unique Key decision Reference from Forward Plan: KEY/15JAN24/07
Is this decision eligible for call-in?	YES
Does this Public report have any annex that contains exempt information?	NO

RECOMMENDATIONS
The Cabinet Member is recommended to:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt the revised Highways Asset Management Policy and Strategy, Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan, and Highway Maintenance Plan

1. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1.1 This report is for Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change to consider exercising delegated authority under paragraph 3.1.2 of Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with the terms of their portfolio at paragraph 3.4.

2. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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3. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 This report seeks approval from the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change to adopt the revised five-year highways policies for 2023-2028.
- 1.1 The Highways Asset Management Policy and Strategy, the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy (HIAMP) and the Highway Maintenance Plan are all 5-year documents. The last approved versions were from 2018 – 2023. The documents have all been reviewed and refreshed for 2023 – 2028.
 - 1.2 There have only been minimal updates due to the documents still meeting the requirements of the Highways service and being still relevant to the Highway industry along with the national legislation. The Highway Maintenance Plan is used to defend claims from the public against the Council and has been very successful over the last five years with Peterborough having some of the lowest compensation payments in the country.
 - 1.3 The Highways Asset Management Policy and Strategy was initially a requirement of the Department for Transport's (DfT) Incentive Fund. It sets out how Peterborough City Council will continue to develop and improve local transport and highway infrastructure. It provides a clear position on how the Council will maintain the highway network to ensure it is adequate to support the growth of the city and to meet the Council's Priorities.
 - 1.4 The Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (HIAMP) collates all the strategies and policies for Peterborough Highway Services. These document how we manage and maintain the assets following both an asset management and risk-based approach. They also define how we will use our resources and continue to improve the services that we provide.
 - 1.5 The HIAMP sets out the policies and investment criteria needed to keep all highway assets in a safe and operational state within the most efficient and effective manner, both on a day-to-day basis and in the long term. The highway assets within the scope of this HIAMP include: Carriageways, Footways, Cycleways, Street Lighting, Highway Structures, Traffic Signals, Highway Surface Water Drainage and Street Furniture.
 - 1.6 Current best practice and experience from various published documents have guided the preparation of this HIAMP. Particular reference has been taken from 'Well-managed Highway Infrastructure – Code of practice' and appropriate documents related to the Department for Transport Incentive Fund, particularly the HMEP guidance documents for Asset Management. HMEP guidance recommends that following an Asset Management Approach supports better financial control and effective long-term management of highway assets.
 - 1.7 The Highway Maintenance Plan is intended to provide a reference to Councillors, officers and all those with an interest in how Peterborough's highway network maintenance is managed. The approach taken is to follow a risk-based approach to asset management in line with the Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure Code of Practice.
 - 1.8 Within this document, the aims and objectives of Peterborough Highway Services (PHS), the partnership between the Council and their delivery partner Milestone will be outlined. This will also provide the necessary links to the CPCA's Local Transport Plan (LTP), the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (HIAMP) and the Highway Asset Management Policy and Strategy. This establishes a consistency between community aspirations and how the highway maintenance service is delivered, within financial constraints.
 - 1.9 As the local highways authority, the Council has an absolute duty under the Highways Act 1980 to maintain the adopted highway network in a safe condition for

all highway users. Failure to comply with this duty could result in the death or injury of highway users, which may lead to both criminal and civil action being taken against the Council. The intent of the Highway Maintenance Plan is to minimise the risk of any such injury or loss occurring within the constraints that the service operates under.

- 1.10 In common with other services provided by the Council, highway maintenance is carried out against a backdrop of increased expectations and limited resources. It is therefore essential that the use of all available resources is carefully considered and directed to maximum effect. The Highway Maintenance Plan promotes good practice and best value to deliver effective highway maintenance within the Peterborough area within a risk-based approach.
- 1.11 A key aspect within the Highway Maintenance Plan is an explanation of the different hierarchies used in line with national best practice. These hierarchies are allocated to carriageway, footway and cycleways. They are based on factors such as usage levels, speeds, local environment and other risk factors.
- 1.12 These hierarchies then determine the inspection level for that street section. With inspections being carried out annually for the lowest level of hierarchy and up to monthly for the highest level. This risk style approach then continues during the inspection and for the raising of jobs to repair defects that are found.

4. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 4.1 The Highway supports all of the Council's Priorities because anyone who travels anywhere within Peterborough for any purpose and by any method of travel is using Peterborough's Highway network. These policies ensure effective asset management of the highway network for the residents of Peterborough, those employed within Peterborough, any visitors of Peterborough and any traffic passing through the authority.

The policies will have a neutral impact on the status quo from the previous policies. Within highways in general the Carbon working group are working to reduce environmental impacts where possible within cost parameters.

Further information on the Council's Priorities can be found here - [Link to Corporate Strategy and Priorities Webpage](#)

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 As part of the document updating process the following have been consulted:
 - Peterborough Highway Services managers including the Head of Highways and Transport
 - Key Milestone Infrastructure staff including the Peterborough Business Director
 - Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change
 - Executive Director Place and Economy
 - Highways inspectors
 - Peterborough City Council Insurance Section
 - Briefing note provided to the Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 6.1 Approval is given to adopt the revised Highways Asset Management Policy and Strategy, Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan, and Highway Maintenance Plan

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 This will enable the Council to meet its statutory obligations and the requirements of the national code of practice “Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure”. An audit by Zurich in 2019 confirmed that the previous versions of these documents and approach ensured that Peterborough is excellently placed to meet the requirements of the code of practice. As such a little touch approach has been adopted to this updating due to the requirements of the code of practice remaining the same.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 Continue with the policy dated 2018-2023. If we don't update the policies then the old policies will show an end date of 2023 and we will struggle to defend claims made against the Council for Highway incidents.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 9.1 There are no additional costs associated with the recommendation. Failure to update the policies and continue to comply with the national code of practice will result in increased compensation claims and possible negative media reports.

Legal Implications

- 9.2 The Highways Act 1980 provides that the highway authority is under a duty to maintain the highway that is shown on the highways plan and register as highway maintainable at the public expense (often referred to as “adopted highway”) . This requires that the highway has to be maintained so that it is reasonably passable by the ordinary traffic of the area. The Council's compliance with the code of practice shall contribute to the Council's ability to demonstrate that it is fulfilling its duty to maintain the highway under the Highways Act 1980 albeit that it has no legal standing in itself.

Equalities Implications

- 9.3 Equalities assessments are carried with all schemes. These policies support equal opportunities and there are no detrimental effects associated with adopting the policies .

10. DECLARATIONS / CONFLICTS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS GRANTED

- 10.1 *None.*

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985) and The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

- 11.1 Highways Asset Management Policy and Strategy, Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan, and Highway Maintenance Plan 2018-2023
<https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/transport-and-streets/highway-asset-management>
<https://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/documents/s38779/Highway%20Maintenance%20Plan%20-%20Appendix%202.pdf>

12. APPENDICES

- 12.1 Appendix 1 - Highways Asset Management Policy and Strategy, Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan, and Highway Maintenance Plan 2023-2028