

Policy for Managing Highway Infrastructure Assets in B&NES

2024 to 2028

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Document information

Title	Bath and North East Somerset Council - Policy for Managing Highway Infrastructure Assets in B&NES (2024 to 2028)
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Description	This document is part of B&NES Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (HIAMP) 2024-2028 suite of documents. The policy applies to the creation/construction, acquisition, operation, maintenance, rehabilitation and disposal of all council road/highway assets.

Responsibility for the Plan

The officers shown below are responsible for the delivery of and updating of this document.

Council Officer	Position	Responsible for
Gary Peacock	Head of Service, Highways Delivery	Delivery of the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (HIAMP).
Craig Jackson	Highway Maintenance & Drainage Manager	Ensuring compliance with the provisions contained in this policy and updating the HIAMP documents.

Document Control

Last reviewed by: Craig Jackson

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Authorised for issue by: Gary Peacock

Date: May 2024

1. Introduction

The local highway network is one of the largest assets that the Council as the Local Highway Authority has responsibility for maintaining. This network consists of carriageways, cycle ways, footways, public rights of way, bridges, retaining walls, drainage, traffic signals, traffic management systems and public transport infrastructure.

A well-managed highway network contributes to the delivery of Council Corporate Strategy, focusing on prevention and improves people lives through the delivery of the councils' priorities. They are:

- More travel choice
- Clean, safe, and vibrant neighbourhoods
- Support for vulnerable adults and children
- Healthy lives and places

The highway network has mainly evolved over hundreds of years therefore, not all parts of it were built to the standards that would be expected of a more newly constructed highway in the current time. Many of the local roads are less resilient to the constantly changing environments and circumstances, such as daily increased usage and severe weather events which they are exposed to. It is therefore predictable that significant investment is required to effectively manage this ageing network to aid movement and access for educational, commercial, and recreational purposes.

The Council recognises that it is important to manage the highway network using the principles of good asset management, with whole life cost solutions and not to follow the traditional reactive “worst first” approach.

The Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (HIAMP) of which this policy is an integral part, sets out the Council's plans and commitments for the management of its highway assets for now and the near future. The high demand combined with pressures on budget drive the need to ensure that any money is invested as astutely as possible the HIAMP supports this approach.

2. Scope of the Policy

This Policy covers the design, construction, operation, maintenance, and disposal of all Highway Assets on Bath and North East Somerset Council's publicly maintainable highway network. These assets include:

- Roads
- Footways
- Cycle routes
- Highway drainage and Land Drainage
- Highway bridges, culverts, retaining walls and related structures including geotechnical assets
- Highway Lighting, traffic signals and illuminated signs
- Highway street furniture and traffic calming measures
- Public Rights of Way
- Highway rural verges

This Policy does not cover the following assets:

- Trunk Roads/motorways
- Car Parks
- Bus stops
- Non-adopted carriageways / footways and cycleways
- Non-adopted highway council assets
- Speed cameras/CCTV/ANPR
- Community or transferred assets
- Highway trees and urban verges

3. Objectives of the Policy

This policy will guide the management of B&NES Council's Highway Assets while supporting national, regional and authority wide objectives. The policy is designed to:

- Employ the best practical and sustainable principles and practices in managing our highway assets to address the climate change and nature emergency.
- Maintain our highway assets and infrastructure in good condition, with a focus on supporting active travel.
- Optimise benefits from applying the principles of good asset management in maintaining our highway infrastructure.
- Improvement of our highway network by using new technologies to focus on prevention and early interventions.
- Exposure to risk is limited to acceptable levels.

4. Policy Details

The Council recognises that it is important to manage the highway network using the principles of good asset management, this policy commits council to produce a Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (HIAMP) that sets out the Council's plans and commitments for the management of its highway assets for now and the near future.

The HIAMP will consist of the following documents:

Highway Asset Management Plan

- This document sets out the Council's plans for the management of its highway assets for the next 5 years.
- Life Cycle modelling informs the plan. This Lifecycle Plan has been modelled using the Highways Maintenance Efficiency Program (HMEP) Carriageway Lifecycle Plan Toolkit which has been developed to enable local highway authorities to make strategic level planning decisions.

Data Management Plan

The Council will collect, keep, and maintain a record of its highway asset data to the level of detail required to meet the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Transport Infrastructure Asset Code. This record will be updated as necessary.

Asset Management Framework

This Asset Management Framework lays the foundation for all the necessary steps and processes adopted by the Council to develop, document, implement and continually manage/improve our highway assets.

Highway Maintenance Manual

The maintenance manual covers all the activities necessary to maintain our highway assets in a safe to use and fit for purpose manner. It contains the processes and procedures that Highway Maintenance and Drainage Team uses in carrying out its highway maintenance activities on behalf of the Council on its Highway Network Assets. It details how all highway maintenance and improvement works are planned, executed, monitored and delivered. It also covers performance measures the Council takes in delivering continuous improvement and value for money in all its highway maintenance activities.

Highway Safety Inspection Manual

The Highway Safety Highway Inspection manual sets the standards for inspecting all publicly maintained highways in B&NES. It contains the Council's policy and procedures relating to Highway Safety Inspections.

Works Programmes

The Council will develop an annual programme and a prioritised forward three to five years improvement works.

Annual Status Reports

The Council will prepare an annual options report that summarises:

- The status of each asset group in terms of its condition and the council's ability to meet its reactive and cyclic repair standards.
- The result of the previous year's investment in terms of meeting the target service standards.
- The options available for the future in term of both short-term and long-term predictions of levels of defects and condition that can be afforded for different budget levels.

5. Communication/Relationship with customers ---

The Council will use information from FixMyStreet and the National Highway and Transport survey combined with members and Parish council's engagement to understand customer priorities and potential for improvement. This information will help to shape and improve the way services are delivered.

6. Roles and Responsibilities ---

The following are the duties and responsibilities of those responsible for delivering the HIAMP.

Director of Place Management

- Ensure alignment with Corporate Strategy and Political aspirations
- Agree corporate asset management policy
- Provide strategic direction and leadership
- Agree Levels of Service and Levels of Acceptable Risk for each asset type and/or class
- Allocate budgets to achieve the levels set

Head of Service

- Provide service strategic direction and leadership
- Review existing policies and develop new policies related to asset management
- Implement the HIAMP with agreed resources
- Monitor and review managers and staff in achieving the HIAMP
- Ensure accurate and reliable asset information is presented to Senior management and Cabinet Members

Managers and Staff

- Implement the HIAMP with agreed resources
- Develop and implement improvement plans for individual asset groups
- Develop and implement Maintenance and Capital Works programmes in accordance with the Highway Asset Management Plan
- Deliver levels of service to agreed risk and cost standards
- Present information to the Senior Officers and Members in terms of life cycle risks and costs
- Production of annual report

7. Related Policies

- Corporate Strategy 2024-2027
- Corporate Risk Management Policy
- Winter Maintenance Policy