

**EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
LEAD MEMBER - TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT
POLICY SUMMARY**

Highway Asset Management Policy

Purpose of Policy

East Sussex County Council (ESCC) recognises the vital role played by the local highway network in supporting the Council Plan 2014-2018 and the Local Transport Plan 2011-2026. ESCC considers an asset management approach to the maintenance of the highways network will support the achievement of the Council's visions, namely:

Council Priorities: 'To deliver our priorities at a time of reducing resources and increasing demand we must work as One Council with a clear focus on achieving the best outcomes we can for East Sussex.'

Local Transport Plan Vision: 'To make East Sussex a prosperous county where an effective, well managed transport infrastructure, and improved travel choices help businesses to thrive and deliver better access to jobs and services, safer, healthier, sustainable and inclusive communities and a high quality environment.'

Policy Statement

East Sussex County Council considers effective highway asset management to be one of the key factors in maintaining its highway network condition, meeting the needs of the community and supporting the changing needs of businesses and local economic growth. By taking an asset management based approach, the right investment decisions will be made with the investment available to maximise value for money, targeting resources and managing risks to maintain a highway environment that is safe and secure for its users.

Specific Policies

Helping People Help Themselves

An asset management approach will enable a focus on customer engagement and satisfaction. Through the effective use of asset management principles, we will aim to:

- gain feedback to manage and improve our service;
- focus on local engagement whilst communicating messages clearly; and
- by clearly defining Council strategic outcomes and priorities, we will help others promote local priorities

Driving Economic Growth

ESCC is responsible for looking after most of the roads in the county, which are a vital part of the infrastructure for economic growth. Through the effective use of asset management principles, we will aim to:

- maximise the value for council tax payers money through a new highways contract, enabling us to focus on improving the condition of the public highway within the county and to create the conditions for growth and improve enterprise;
- balance competing needs and differing priorities across the highway network and select options which best meet the desired outcomes; and
- ensure that the East Sussex highway network is in the best condition for the investment available.

Keeping Vulnerable People Safe

We have wide ranging responsibilities to keep people safe in the county. Our aim is to reduce the number of road casualties within the county, whilst minimising the human cost and severity of injuries. Through the effective use of asset management principles, we will aim to:

- maintain a safe and secure highway environment;
- comply with all statutory obligations, meeting users' needs for safety; and
- consider road safety at all times when developing forward programmes of work.

Making Best Use of Our Resources

An asset management approach has been widely accepted by central and local government as a means of delivering a more efficient and effective approach to highway maintenance through longer term planning. Such an approach enables more efficient and effective use of resources, while fulfilling legal obligations, delivering stakeholder needs and safeguarding the engineering integrity of the network. Through the effective use of asset management principles, we will demonstrate value for money by:

- understanding our asset serviceability criteria;
- adopting a lifecycle approach to planning asset investment and management decisions;
- adopting a continuous improvement approach to asset management policies and practices; and
- by defining desired levels of service for highway assets in consultation with elected representatives.

Supporting Information

The Highway Asset Management Strategy

The strategy sets out how an asset management approach is utilised to support the achievement of the priorities within the Council Plan, as summarised above. The strategy takes into account current and projected financial pressures and explains how available funds and resources will be utilised to maximise their benefit.