

# **Highway Asset Management Policy**

## Highway Asset Management Policy

The local highway network is the largest and most visible community asset for which local authorities are responsible. It is used daily by the majority of residents and those passing through the Borough and is fundamental to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the community. It helps to shape the character and quality of the local areas that it serves and makes an important contribution to wider local authority priorities, including regeneration, social inclusion, community safety and health.

Cheshire East's highway network is the single largest asset that the authority maintains. The current gross replacement cost for the highway network with associated assets and land value, stands at approximately £4.97 billion.

The Council recognises the vital role played by Cheshire East's local highway network in supporting the authority's vision and its strategic priorities. Our primary focus will be on achieving the following objectives:

1. Cheshire East Council is committed to making the best use of its budgets, and advocates an asset management approach for the maintenance of the local highway network, in order to help deliver the best long term outcomes for residents, businesses and highway users.
2. The Asset Management Strategy will set out how Highway Asset Management will be delivered in Cheshire East. This strategy will take into account current and projected financial pressures and will explain how available funds and resources should be utilised to maximise their benefit.
3. Cheshire East Council will continue to be a high performing authority that uses its resources well, investing in the '**right treatment, at the right place, at the right time**' to secure a long term sustainable future for the highway infrastructure for the borough.
4. The work we do contributes to the achievement of the outcomes and priorities, outlined in Cheshire East Council's Three Year Plan. In order to support its vision and help achieve and meet the outcomes the Highway Asset Management Strategy will seek to:

### **Outcome 1 – Our local communities are strong and supportive:**

Adopt an effective Asset Management Strategy which will support the development of an effective transport system that helps facilitate a high quality of life, by meeting the needs of the individual, whilst remaining responsive to the changing needs of businesses and the local economy. This approach will ensure that the condition and performance of highway assets are enhanced and continuously monitored, in order to help optimise planned maintenance programmes.

### **Outcome 2 – Cheshire East has a strong and resilient economy:**

Adopt an effective Asset Management approach that will ensure that the highway infrastructure assets support the delivery of services and the local economy, taking into account the long term performance of the asset. Local communities will see the positive effects of investment and will support initiatives to deliver the optimum community infrastructure within available resources.

Provide the most optimum levels of planned maintenance activities over the lifecycle of all asset types. This will allow the effective coordination of works to reduce road closures and their impacts, as well as providing maximum network availability and reliability, which supports the forward visibility of planned maintenance works.

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**Outcome 4 – Cheshire East is a green and sustainable place:**

Set out a framework that will provide an integrated transport system that maximises cost over time, value to the community and environmental contribution, whilst keeping people healthy and supporting lower carbon transport choices. It will also integrate sustainable solutions and treatments, which minimise waste and landfill, at the centre of our approach to highway maintenance. In addition, an effective Asset Management Strategy will support the delivery of road safety initiatives, to help to reduce road traffic accidents.

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