



HIGHWAY SAFETY INSPECTION POLICY 2020

Policy: Highway Safety Inspections

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Statutory responsibility

The statutory basis for carrying out highways safety inspections is Section 41 of The Highways Act 1980 (The Act), which imposes a duty on the highway authority to maintain the highway. In addition, Section 58 of The Act also provides the special defence in action against a highway authority for damages for non-repair of the highway. If the authority can demonstrate that it has taken all reasonable steps to keep the highway secure and free from danger, then any civil claim for damages can potentially be defended. Such reasonable steps would include the council's system of inspection and repair.

1.2 National Guidance

Well Managed Highway Infrastructure: A Code of Practice 2016 (WMHI), although not statutory, provides guidance to Highway Authorities on highways management. It promotes the adoption of an integrated asset management approach and establishment of local levels of service through risk-based assessment.

2.0 Aims

2.1 The Council aims to:

- Carry out highways safety inspections of all adopted highways in accordance with its published Code of Practice.
- Identify any defects which could potentially present a hazard to any highway user in accordance with the criteria detailed in the Code of Practice.
- Assess all defects identified and arrange for the appropriate level of repair as required, giving consideration to the type, severity and location of the defect in accordance with its Highway Inspection Code of Practice.
- Carry out any repairs within the timescale that is reasonable in the opinion of the Highway Authority for the seriousness of the defect and the risk to the public as detail its Highway Inspection Code of Practice.

3.0 Policy

3.1 The Council will produce a Highway Safety Inspections Code of Practice, adopting the principles and recommendations of WMHI.

3.2 The Code of Practice will identify the frequency of highway safety inspections for each road, based on its categorisation in the Council's published Network Hierarchy.

3.3 The Code of Practice will describe and illustrate the defects and investigatory levels to be identified during such inspections.

- 3.4 The Council will review the frequency of highway safety inspections as a result of any changes to the Network Hierarchy.
- 3.5 This policy and the associated Highway Safety Inspection Code of Practice will be reviewed periodically & updated where necessary to ensure it takes account of significant change and remains effective at delivering its aims.