

## **Cambridgeshire County Council**

### **Policy for Highway Asset Management**

1. The County Council recognises the vital role played by Cambridgeshire's local highway network in supporting the authority's vision and strategic priorities:
  - Developing the local economy for the benefit of all;
  - Helping people live healthy and independent lives;
  - Supporting and protecting vulnerable people.
2. The County Council is committed to making the best use of its budgets and advocates an asset management approach for the maintenance of the county's local highway network. This will help deliver the best long term outcomes for local communities, whilst minimising whole life costs.
3. An Asset Management Strategy will set out how Highway Infrastructure Asset Management will be delivered in Cambridgeshire. This strategy will take into account current and projected financial pressures and will explain how available funds and resources should be most effectively utilised.
4. The Authority's third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) sets out the following local transport objectives, to support the County Council's key priorities and duties. The contribution of the Asset Management Strategy to each of these objectives is briefly set out below.

#### **Enable people to thrive, achieve their potential and improve their quality of life:**

The adoption of an effective Asset Management Strategy will support the development of a 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 transport assets are continuously monitored and managed, in order to help optimise the long term benefits of planned maintenance programmes.

**Supporting and protecting vulnerable people:** An effectively maintained local road network will help ensure accessibility for those people in most need of access to local services, whilst also facilitating the support to vulnerable people within their own communities. In addition, an effective Asset Management Strategy will support the delivery of targeted road safety initiatives, to help to reduce road traffic accidents.

#### **Managing and delivering the growth and development of sustainable communities:**

Adopting an Asset Management approach will help ensure that the future demands upon the network as a result of growth and development are considered when designing and programming maintenance works.

**Promoting improved skill levels and economic prosperity across the county, helping people into jobs and encouraging enterprise:** The Council's approach to Asset Management will mean that funds available for highways maintenance will be used to

achieve minimum whole life cost throughout the life cycle of assets. A well maintained and managed highway network is essential to encourage inward investment, since it will help provide good access to businesses and enable the efficient transport of goods. Asset management will also enable the effective coordination of works, thus reducing disruption associated with road works. This will help maximise the availability of the network and help provide reliable journey times.

**Meeting the challenges of climate change and enhancing the natural environment:**

The Asset Management approach will help ensure that roadworks are co-ordinated. This will mean that disruption on the network, with associated extra journey times and emissions, is minimised. The lifecycle planning approach will mean that fewer roads need to be reconstructed and more thinner treatments are undertaken. This will save on the use of virgin aggregates and the carbon emissions associated with materials transport. The use of thinner treatments and the promotion of recycling will mean that less material will need to be taken to landfill. The asset management approach will actively consider those highways that are susceptible to climate change; this will be reflected in the maintenance regimes adopted for such highways.