

Swindon Borough Council Highway Asset Management Policy

2016 to 2020



Context

Swindon's highway infrastructure is the biggest capital asset that the Council own. It is valued at well over a billion pounds and is vital to the town's economic and social prosperity. Although our roads are currently amongst the safest in the South West, our highway network is growing busier and larger as new businesses and residents are attracted to the facilities we offer. The financial pressures we face mean that we must become smarter, more flexible and innovative in our approach to managing these assets within the funding that is available to ensure that they continue to support our aspirations for the town.

The Strategic Vision

The Vision for Swindon 2030 sets out how the Council will shape the Borough, and deliver growth that allows communities to prosper, families to live healthy and happy lives, and children to fulfil their potential. The Vision for Swindon is that:

'By 2030, Swindon will have all of the positive characteristics of a British city with one of the UK's most successful economies; a low-carbon environment with compelling cultural, retail and leisure opportunities and excellent infrastructure. It will be a model of well managed housing growth which supports and improves new and existing communities.

Swindon will be physically transformed with existing heritage and landmarks complemented by new ones that people who live, work and visit here will recognise and admire. It will remain, at heart, a place of fairness and opportunity where people can aspire to and achieve prosperity, supported by strong civic and community leadership.'

In order to deliver the Vision, the Council has developed four priorities and thirty pledges, which will enable Councillors and officers to prioritise their work and ensure the Council is using its increasingly limited resources to effectively pursue the vision for Swindon.

This Highway Asset Management Policy has been developed to reflect the four priority areas of the vision.

Policy Statement

Priority 1: **Improve infrastructure and housing to support a growing, low-carbon economy.**

By adopting a long term approach to asset management, we will **increase the resilience** of the network; promote consistent journey times and utilise sustainable solutions including low and zero carbon energy technology to reduce waste; environmental impact and whole life costs.

Priority 2: **Offer education opportunities that lead to the right skills and right jobs in the right places.**

Our **long-term** approach to asset management; partnership working; development and maintenance will promote sustainable recruitment practices and enable skilled resources to be employed in the right place at the right time.

Priority 3: **Ensure clean and safe streets and improve our public spaces and local culture.**

We will adopt a **risk-based** approach to asset management and will regularly inspect and maintain highway infrastructure assets to keep our highway network safe and working; reduce accidents; crime; the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.

We will ensure that plans for new and improved highway infrastructure include **sustainable** solutions which protect local ecology; are sensitively integrated within local streetscapes; preserve or enhance the character of the town's heritage and promote access to the natural environment.

Priority 4: **Help people to help themselves while always protecting our most vulnerable children and adults.**

We will regularly **engage with the communities** we serve by surveying public opinion to ensure that our strategy and supporting commissioning; financial and delivery plans work effectively as a whole, and that their combined effect meets agreed levels of service.

Consultation and Endorsement

This policy is a high level document that is endorsed by Chief Officers and Senior Decision makers within the Council. The policy was considered and adopted at the Cabinet meeting on 21st October 2015. This policy will be made available on the Council's website and takes a long term approach to asset management. It will be updated when there is a change in policy or approach, and no later than four years from the date of endorsement.