Swindon Borough Council Highway Asset Management Information Strategy

January 2018

Contents

1.0 Framework

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. 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.

The priorities and pledges championed within the Vision are effected through a series of objectives in the Council Plan and the ancillary Departmental Business Plan for Highways and Transportation.

These documents are supported by a Highway Infrastructure Asset Management (HIAM) Policy and Strategy which identify how efficient and sustainable management of highway assets can contribute to the overall Vision.

Swindon's current Highway Asset Management Policy and Strategy were approved by Cabinet in October 2015 and are available to view on the Council's website. They cover the period 2016-20 and will be reviewed periodically as required.

The Strategy called for the development of a suite of linked documents including a:

- Performance Management Framework,
- Communication Strategy;
- *Highway Information Strategy;* and,
- Individual Highway Asset Management Plans for each core asset group.

A summary of the framework and hierarchy of these documents is depicted in figure 1 (page 2).

2.0 Purpose

Swindon's highway infrastructure is the biggest capital asset that the Council owns and is vital to the town's economic and social prosperity. Our highway network is growing as new businesses and residents are attracted to Swindon.

The financial pressures we face in ensuring our network is fit for purpose in serving the needs of the wider community 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 Highway Information Strategy detailed in these pages has been designed as part of a suite of documents to ensure that highway information is collected; stored and shared in a safe and auditable format that supports the implementation of the HIAM Strategy.
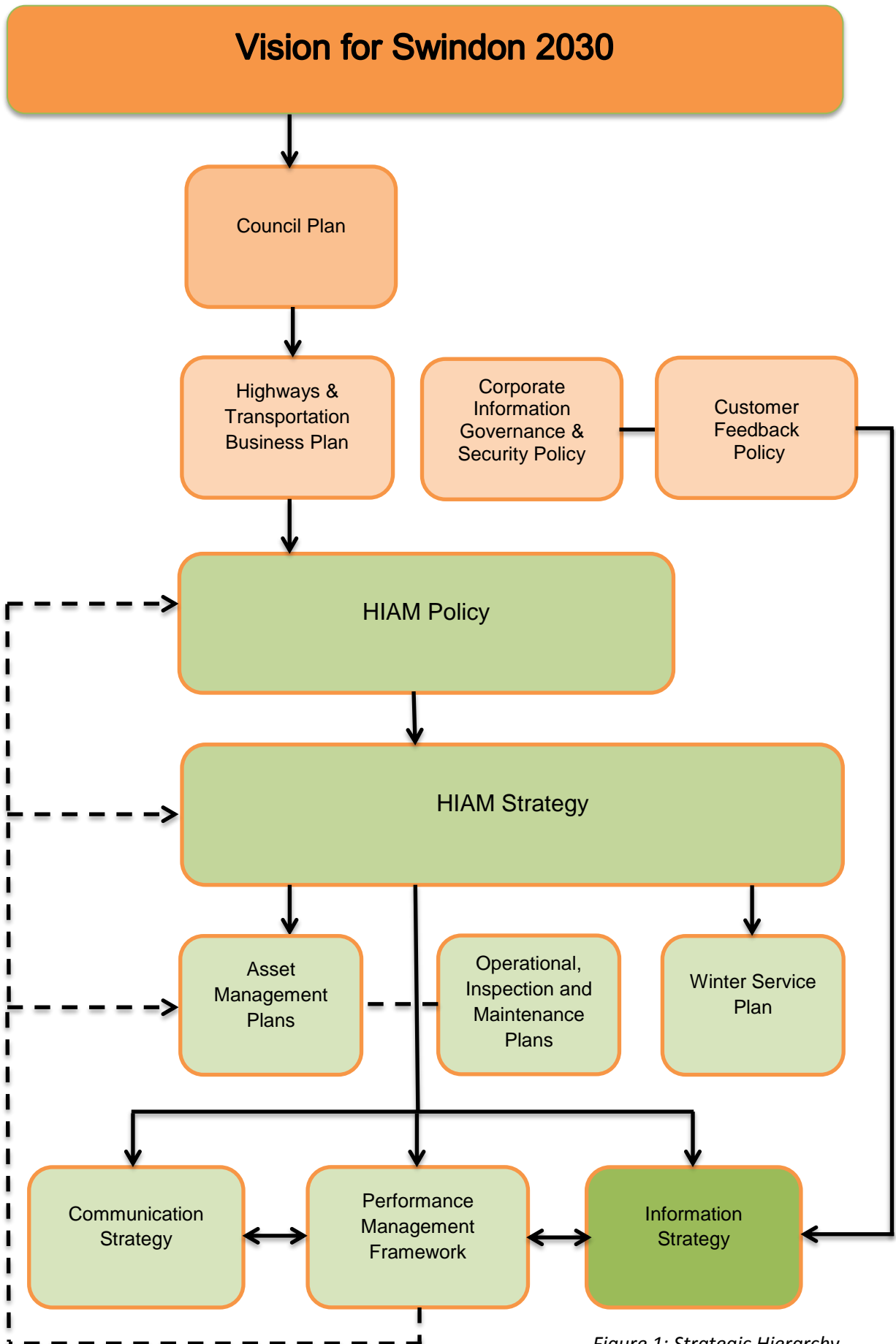
Figure 1: Strategic Hierarchy

3.0 Aims and objectives

The aim of the Information Strategy is to link Swindon's vision for 2030 through to how operations are planned and managed on the ground.

The Information Strategy has been designed to ensure that appropriate and accurate information for the assets we maintain is available in order to:

- Comply with statutory obligations;
- Support Council objectives;
- Value assets;
- Facilitate whole life costing; life cycle planning and investment modelling;
- Assess risks;
- Make informed strategic decisions regarding the maintenance of assets;
- Monitor; manage; report and benchmark performance; and,
- Facilitate communication.

The Information Strategy is a key strategic document which identifies what information needs to be collected; how frequently and in what format it should be held to deliver the Council vision.

4.0 Information collection

The Data Management Tool detailed in appendix 1 has been designed to take into account that the highway network has been constructed over many centuries and few construction records are available for many historic or sub-surface assets.

A gap analysis has been carried out and a programme of data collection and condition surveys has commenced to collect additional data although this strategy recognises that collecting all available data is likely to require substantial investment over a period of many years.

In order to maximise the impact of future data collection surveys, they will be targeted towards major asset groups and high risk areas first, in accordance with the Code of Practice 'Well-managed Highway Infrastructure, 2016' HMEP 'Guidance on the Management of Highway Drainage Assets, 2012' and the 'Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, 2014'. A summary of the major asset groups is depicted in figure 2.

Figure 2

5.0 Information management

Performance reports will be made available to senior decision makers at the frequencies detailed in the Performance Management Framework and in particular as part of the annual strategic investment planning process. The review process will identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the service and action plans will be developed as required. Any lessons learnt concerning the collection and management of data will be documented and used to refine Policies; Strategies and Plans including the Performance Management Framework and Information Strategy as appropriate, to ensure that they remain aligned with the council vision.

The IT systems used to manage data and form the respective asset registers will be reviewed in conjunction with council IT service before procuring new services or extending existing contracts. This review process will be designed to ensure that the proposed systems support the aspirations of Highways and Transportation and integrate with the systems operated by other departments. Mid-term health-checks and specialist training will be commissioned from suppliers where required in order to deliver the requirements of the Information Strategy and support other business needs.

The Data Management Tool detailed in appendix 1 is a live document that will be stored on a shared network drive and continuously updated and refined to meet business needs by the officers with primary access to the data.

6.0 Evaluation and review

The Information Strategy will be reviewed annually and updated as required in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member.