

Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy

Purpose of this Policy: This policy explains Devon County Council’s approach to meeting our objective to maintain the highway network in Devon as required by the Highways Act 1980.

Scope of this Policy: This policy applies to all highway infrastructure and highway assets which are managed and maintained by Devon County Council.

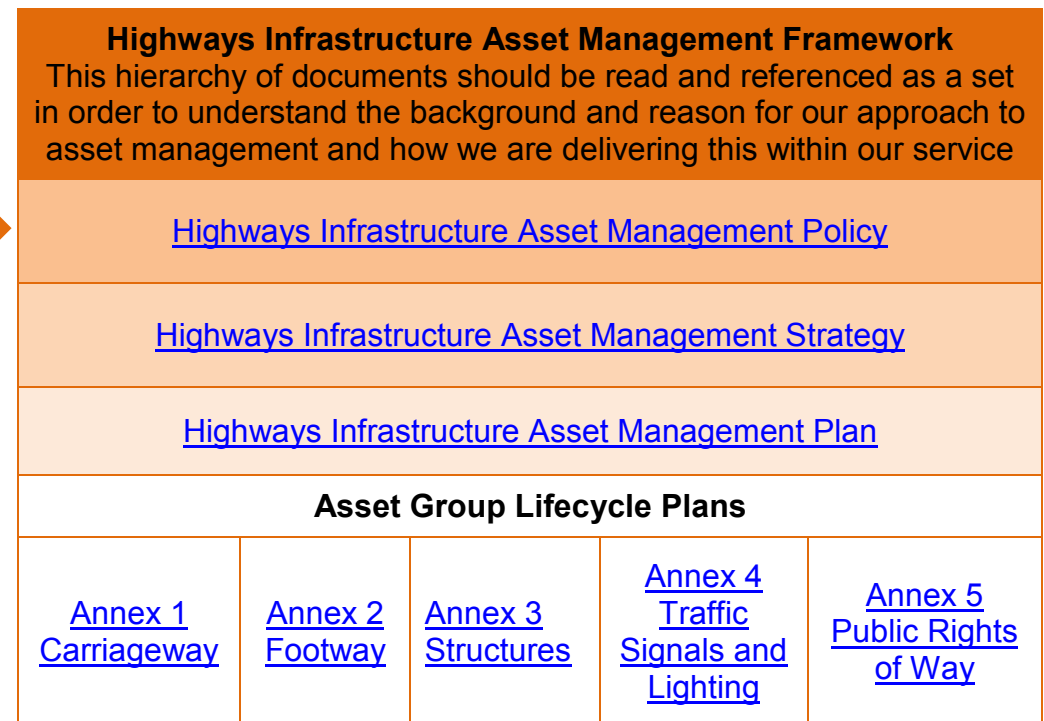
Note: Motorways and trunk roads are maintained by [Highways England](#)

What are highway assets? The highway infrastructure comprises the network of roads, bridges, pavements, cycle ways and public rights of way, together with street lights, traffic signals, bollards and signs, drainage systems and retaining walls. Together these are the highway assets.

We have:

- 7,700 miles of roads, the longest highway network in the country.
- 3,500 bridges
- 3,000 miles of public rights of way
- 2,000 retaining walls

Together these assets have a gross replacement value in excess of £12 billion. It is therefore essential that we maintain this valuable asset as effectively as we can with the resources we have.



Policy Statement

Devon County Council's vision is for Devon to be a safe and healthy place to live; a place where people can live their lives well. To meet this vision, it is essential to have a well-managed and maintained highway network. An effective asset management regime is one of the key components to enable this.

Through our Asset Management framework we aim to provide a highway network which supports the Council's vision and is:

- **Safe** and serviceable for people to use
- **Connected** - enabling access to and from communities for people, goods and services
- **Healthy** - supporting and promoting active and healthy lifestyles
- **Prosperous** - contributing to wider economic growth
- **Resilient** - making effective and efficient use of our local resources promoting sustainable communities
- **Sustainable** - Is maintained appropriately to retain its value and condition and contributes to wider environmental management

To do this we will:

- Regularly collect and maintain good quality asset condition survey data to inform Highway Infrastructure Asset Programme Development.
- Take a long-term view using a systematic approach based on defined levels of service for each asset
- Consider the whole life costs of maintaining an asset; we will look at what will provide best return on the money we spend in the long term, rather than a 'worst-first' short term maintenance treatment
- Understand the lifecycle of each asset and use this knowledge to plan when is the best time to do maintenance to keep the asset in a safe and serviceable condition and when it is time to replace it with new.
- Measure and review Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan performance indicators to influence spending on different assets.
- Develop maintenance programmes using asset condition data as the starting point and utilising local intelligence where appropriate
- Present an Annual Maintenance Programme annually to Cabinet for investment decision making approval.



The approach is explained further in our Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy and in our detailed Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan.