

## Highway Asset Management Policy

Devon County Council has established a long term vision and purpose for the county. The plan focuses on how we will help the county to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, build on the resilience of local people and communities to create a fairer, healthier and more caring place, and grasp the opportunity to create a greener, more prosperous and inclusive future for all.

The County Council wants Devon to be the Best Place to...

### Grow up

*We are committed to being a child friendly Devon where all children and young people are safe, healthy, ambitious, and can fulfil their potential*

### Live well

*We are committed to being a fairer Devon: inclusive, compassionate and caring, where everyone is safe, connected and resilient*

### Prosper

*We are committed to being a greener and prosperous Devon, with opportunities to create a sustainable future for all*

This ambition sets the context for the Highways and Traffic Management Service. The network is one of the few universal services that is used by all of Devon's communities as well as the hundred of thousands of visitors that Devon welcomes each year. The assets we maintain includes

- Carriageways (including Drainage)
- Bridges
- Retaining Walls
- Footways and Cycleways
- Public Rights of Way
- Shared Community Trails (off road trails for walkers and cyclists)
- Drainage Systems
- Streetlights
- Traffic Signals
- Fencing and Barriers
- Trees and Soft Landscape

This Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Policy and the accompanying Strategy have been developed to ensure the highway network and associated assets are maintained in an appropriate way to meet the following challenges identified in the Strategic Plan.

### Climate change

*Climate change poses a serious threat to quality of life now and for future generations. It will damage biodiversity, disrupt food production, damage infrastructure, threaten jobs, and harm human health.*

*Disadvantaged and less affluent groups are likely to be most negatively affected by climate change, and the effects of climate change may make disadvantage worse. As a community leader, the County Council has an important role to help tackle the climate emergency and enable communities to adapt to climate change.*

### Devon's changing population

*Devon's population is ageing and growing, with proportionately more older people when compared nationally.*

*More adults have complex health needs and are living with them longer. This requires a good quality health and social care system for a future population that is rising and ageing, and for more people living longer in ill-health.*

*Some of Devon's young people grow up in areas that are relatively deprived and where their prospects of achieving greater financial success are limited, so all young people must be supported to have good life opportunities and job prospects.*

### Fairness and equality

*COVID-19 has brought to wider consciousness inequalities within society, in areas from healthcare to technology. These inequalities are felt along various lines, including ethnicity, disability and income.*

*We need to continue, in all that we do, to reduce inequalities for vulnerable, disadvantaged or isolated communities, to ensure more people can reach their own potential, have equality of opportunity and are free from discrimination and harassment.*

### Trust and confidence

*Research during the pandemic shows that trust in local government and feelings of local unity have remained higher than at the national level, and local communities have become more important than ever.*

*Maintaining this trust by acting as a community leader, drawing together different public sector partners and community groups, and engaging more fully with citizens are more important than ever as we recover and look forward.*

### Financial resilience and prosperity

*The pandemic has caused an economic decline not witnessed in the UK since the 1930s. Even before the pandemic, Devon was home to the District area with the lowest average wages in the UK.*

*We need to help level up our economy, supporting areas of low economic growth and social mobility, to provide a prosperous future for all our communities.*

To achieve this aim we will

- Regularly collect and maintain good quality asset condition survey data to inform the development of a Highway Infrastructure Asset Programme.
- Take a long-term view using a systematic, risk-based 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
- Encouraging and enabling communities to influence and undertake elements of the service
- 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 to promote continuous improvement and 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.

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