

# North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet 10 November 2014

**ITEM 7(d)**  
**Highway Asset  
Management Plan  
Annual Information  
Report 2014**

**Portfolio(s):** Housing & Environment

**Cabinet Member(s):** Councillor John Harrison

**Report from Service Area:** Environment & Leisure

**Responsible Officer:** Phil Scott – Head of Environment and Leisure **Tel:(0191) 6437299**

**Wards affected:** All

## **PART 1**

### **1.1 Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to present to Cabinet the Authority's Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP) Annual Information Report 2014.

### **1.2 Recommendation(s):**

It is recommended that Cabinet note the content of the HAMP Annual Information Report at Appendix 1.

### **1.3 Forward plan:**

28 days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

### **1.4 Council plan and policy framework**

The maintenance of the highway network contributes to the delivery of the following key priorities set out in the Council Plan:

- 1 C: We will improve accessibility in the borough and support accessibility by walking and cycling; and
- 2 A: We will carry out a programme of road and pavement repairs.

### **1.5 Information:**

#### **1.5.1 Purpose of the Highway Asset Management Plan Annual Information Report**

The Authority's Highway Asset Management Plan 2012 to 2017 (HAMP) includes a commitment to provide Cabinet with an annual information report outlining progress and key issues associated with the maintenance of the Authority's public highway network. The report has a particular emphasis around the condition of the network and the resources required to maintain it effectively.

Cabinet is invited to note the content of the HAMP Annual Information Report 2014, attached at Appendix 1. The report will be used as the basis for ongoing discussions around the challenges of maintaining the highway network. The report is aimed at supporting those discussions so that any decisions about potential changes in highway maintenance priorities and resources can be made in an informed manner.

All Elected Members have been provided with a personal copy of the HAMP Annual Information Report as seen at Appendix 1. The report can also be viewed on the Authority's website and copies have been placed in each of the Member Group Rooms.

#### 1.5.2 Key Findings of the HAMP Annual Information Report

Over the last 12 months the Highway Maintenance Team has continued to make steady progress in improving the Borough's roads and footpaths against the backdrop of a difficult financial climate. Our customers continue to see a well maintained highway network as a top priority. It is therefore encouraging to see that additional capital investment in highway maintenance made in recent years is starting to make a positive difference. Members are requested to take particular note of page 9 of the Annual Information Report which shows the current condition of roads compared to 3 years ago. It can be seen that the percentage of roads requiring maintenance has decreased which clearly demonstrates an improvement in the condition of the network. This is a good indication that a combination of additional funding and preventative maintenance policies are starting to pay dividends. It is further evidenced by good customer feedback, the Highways Team having received increased positive comments from residents and other stakeholders. Members also gave similar positive feedback at a series of highway maintenance briefing sessions that were held earlier this year.

Whilst the improvement in the condition of roads is welcome, the Authority continues to face many challenges to keep North Tyneside's highway network in a serviceable condition. For example, the condition of public footways continues to be an area of concern and the Highways Team is starting to focus more on this. The backlog of carriageway repairs is still around £21 million and it is estimated the footway repair backlog will be a similar figure.

Although the repair backlog is currently manageable through a combination of planned and reactive maintenance, it is appropriate that capital investment is maintained to ensure that there is no decline in the condition of the highway network which would hamper the Authority's ability to maintain a serviceable network. This should be given full consideration in any future budget setting discussions.

#### 1.6 **Decision options:**

The following decision option is available for consideration by Cabinet:

Option 1:

- 1) Cabinet should note the content of the HAMP Annual Information Report

#### 1.7 **Reasons for recommended option:**

No alternative options have been outlined as no further direct decisions by Cabinet are sought in relation to the HAMP Annual Information Report 2014.

#### 1.8 **Appendices:**

Appendix 1: North Tyneside Highway Asset Management Plan 2012-2017 Annual Information Report

## **1.9 Contact officers:**

Mark Newlands, Highways & Infrastructure Manager, tel. (0191) 643 6129  
Andrew Mollon, Highway Asset Manager, tel. (0191) 643 6133  
Colin MacDonald, Senior Manager for Technical and Regulatory Services, tel. (0191) 643 6620  
Alison Campbell, Finance Business Manager, tel. (0191) 643 7038  
Phil Scott, Head of Environment and Leisure, tel no: (0191) 6437299

## **1.10 Background information:**

The following background papers have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the officer of the author:

North Tyneside Highway Asset Management Plan 2012 to 2017, available on the Council's website at:

[http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/browse-display.shtml?p\\_ID=527383&p\\_subjectCategory=380](http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/browse-display.shtml?p_ID=527383&p_subjectCategory=380)

## **PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

### **2.1 Finance and other resources**

There are no immediate financial and resource implications directly arising from this report. However, there are a number of issues contained in the HAMP Annual Information Report which do themselves have long term financial implications for the Authority. The report suggests that there remains a significant backlog of highway repairs that will increase if current resources are not maintained. It is also stated that Footway maintenance remains a significant challenge and consideration should be given to increased financial investment. It is anticipated that these issues will continue to be discussed and considered as part of the Financial Planning and Budget process.

### **2.2 Legal**

Under the Highways Act 1980 the Authority has a statutory duty to maintain the adopted highway network. There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

### **2.3 Consultation/community engagement**

Customer engagement is a fundamental consideration within the HAMP. The HAMP contains a communication plan which is updated annually and ensures that the views of customers are taken into account. Typically this will involve initiatives such as resident surveys and member engagement events. It is expected that any decisions around changes in maintenance priorities will continue to take into account the needs of customers.

### **2.4 Human rights**

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

### **2.5 Equalities and diversity**

There are no equalities and diversity implications directly arising from this report.

### **2.6 Risk management**

The risks associated with matters in this report will be managed in accordance with the risk register set out in the Highway Asset Management Plan 2012 to 2017.

## 2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.

## 2.8 Environment and Sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability implications directly arising from this report. However, the report informs Cabinet of the condition of the built environment with regard to the highway infrastructure.

### PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Deputy Chief Executive
- Head(s) of Service
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Head of Corporate Strategic