

North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet 14 December 2015

ITEM 7(e)
North Tyneside Highway
Asset Management Plan
Annual Information
Report 2015

Portfolio(s): Housing & Transport

Cabinet Member(s): Councillor John Harrison

Report from Service

Area: Environment, Housing & Leisure

Responsible Officer: Head of Environment, Housing & Leisure
Tel: (0191) 643 7299

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

The Authority's Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP) was adopted in 2012. The HAMP contains a commitment to provide Cabinet with an annual report so that Members receive information about all aspects of highway maintenance including current performance and work that has been undertaken in the previous 12 months. The annual report also contains information about the resources required to effectively manage and maintain the highway asset from a whole life perspective.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet note the content of the HAMP Annual Information Report 2015 shown at the Appendix.

1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty eight days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 28 September 2015.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

Although the HAMP Annual Information Report is not specifically referenced within the 2014/18 Our North Tyneside Plan, the maintenance of the highway network is complementary to the following priorities:

- 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 Background

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.

Currently the highway maintenance activities delivered through the HAMP are funded through a number of funding streams. Capital work is funded by the annual Local Transport Plan Maintenance Block and in recent years additional funding has been invested through the Authority's Investment Plan.

Cabinet is invited to note the content of the HAMP Annual Information Report 2015, attached as the Appendix. The report will be used as the basis for ongoing consideration around the challenges of maintaining the highway network. The report is aimed at supporting those considerations so that any decisions about potential changes in highway maintenance priorities and resources can be made in an informed manner.

Following the Cabinet meeting, all ward members will be provided with a personal copy of the HAMP Annual Information Report as seen at the Appendix. The report will also be published on the Authority's website and copies will be placed in each of the member group rooms.

1.5.2 Key Findings of the HAMP Annual Information Report 2015

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 national 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 continuing to make a positive difference. The latest condition surveys show that a combination of additional funding and preventative maintenance policies is starting to pay dividends. This 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 ward briefing sessions that were held in September. For the first time ever, the carriageway maintenance backlog has fallen over the last 12 months which is a notable achievement.

Members are requested to take particular note of Chapter 6 of the Annual Information Report which shows the condition of the highway network since the HAMP was implemented.

Whilst the gradual 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 £20.7 million and it is estimated the footway repair backlog will be a similar figure.

1.5.3 Renewal of the HAMP

The HAMP is due for review in 2017 and work is to commence shortly on refreshing the policy. As part of this process, cabinet members and other key stakeholders will be engaged so that the new HAMP can be shaped appropriately in terms of policy direction and available resources.

1.6 **Decision options:**

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

Option 1

Cabinet should note the content of the HAMP Annual Information Report.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

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 2015.

1.8 **Appendices:**

Appendix: North Tyneside Highway Asset Management Plan 2012-2017 Annual Information Report 2015

1.9 **Contact officers:**

Mark Newlands, Highways & Infrastructure Manager, tel. (0191) 643 6129
Ian Jones, Highway Asset Manager, tel. (0191) 643 6133
Colin MacDonald, Senior Manager, Technical & Regulatory Services tel. (0191) 643 6620
Alison Campbell, Senior Business Partner, tel. (0191) 643 7038
Phil Scott, Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure, tel no: (0191) 643 7299

1.10 **Background information:**

The following background information has been used in the compilation of this report and is available at the office of the author:

North Tyneside Highway Asset Management Plan 2012 to 2017, which is available on the Authority's website [here](#)

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 if they are to be addressed. The report suggests that there remains a significant backlog of highway repairs that is likely to increase unless current resources are maintained. It is anticipated that this issue will continue to be discussed and considered further 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

There are no immediate consultation or community engagement implications directly arising from this report. However, community engagement is a prominent feature of the HAMP and 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 highway infrastructure.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

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