

# North Tyneside Council

## Report to Cabinet

### Date: 14 October 2019

#### Title: North Tyneside Highway Asset Management Plan Annual Information Report 2019

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Portfolio: Environment and Transport

Cabinet Member:

Councillor Carl Johnson

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Report from Service

Area:

Environment, Housing and Leisure

Responsible Officer:

Phil Scott, Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure

Tel: (0191) 643 7295

Wards affected:

All

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## PART 1

### 1.1 Executive Summary:

North Tyneside Council is responsible for an extensive highway network and feedback from our residents has consistently told us that the maintenance of roads and footpaths is a top priority.

In September 2017, Cabinet adopted an updated Highway Asset Management Plan 2017 - 2032 (HAMP) setting out the Authority's approach to maintaining North Tyneside's highways and responding to the Elected Mayor and Cabinet's policy direction which included providing a greater emphasis on our footways.

The purpose of this report is to fulfil the commitment within the HAMP to provide Cabinet with an annual information report outlining the highway and infrastructure work undertaken over the last 12 months, future planned work activities, and other items of relevant interest. This is the third annual report presented since adoption of the HAMP.

Over the last 12 months there has been an improvement in the condition of the highway network and a number of positive changes to the Highway Maintenance Service have been made such as improvements to our gully cleansing and flood response regime.

### 1.2 Recommendation:

It is recommended that Cabinet note the content of the HAMP Annual Information Report 2019, attached as **Appendix 1**.

### 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 16 August 2019

## 1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report is relevant to the following priorities set out in the 'Our North Tyneside' Council Plan 2018-20:

- Provide a clean, green, healthy, attractive, safe and sustainable environment
- Have effective transport and physical infrastructure

## 1.5 Information:

### 1.5.1 Background

- 1.5.2 The Authority's Highway Asset Management Plan 2017 to 2032 (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.
- 1.5.3 The Authority is responsible for an extensive highway network and feedback from our residents has consistently told us that the maintenance of roads and footpaths is a top priority.
- 1.5.4 In September 2017, Cabinet adopted an updated Highway Asset Management Plan 2017 - 2032 (HAMP), setting out the Authority's approach to maintaining North Tyneside's highways and responding to the Elected Mayor and Cabinet's policy direction which included providing a greater emphasis on our footways.
- 1.5.5 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.
- 1.5.6 Cabinet is invited to note the contents of the HAMP Annual Information Report 2019, attached as Appendix 1. 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.
- 1.5.7 Following the Cabinet meeting, all ward members will be provided with a personal copy of the HAMP Annual Information Report. The report will also be published on the Authority's website.
- 1.5.8 Key Highlights of the HAMP Annual Information Report 2019

The following key highlights can be drawn from the annual report:

- The highway network is the most valuable asset in the Authority's ownership
- The current total value of highway assets is **£1,832,000,000 (£1.832 billion)**
- The successful implementation of the HAMP policy and investment strategy is demonstrating that the ongoing application of highway asset management principles by the Authority is gradually improving the condition of the road network

- The continued additional capital investment in highway maintenance is gradually improving the overall condition of the network in line with HAMP principles. This fact is illustrated by the positive “Road Condition Indicator” calculation results recorded on page 13 of the Information Report
- The Technical Services Partnership has introduced new technology to measure silt levels in gully pots which will inform a new risk-based approach to gully cleansing. The first cycle of cleansing and data gathering has been completed with data available on over 44,000 road gullies in North Tyneside. A new gully cleansing strategy will be developed on completion of the second cycle of cleansing and data collection. The second cycle is due to be complete in October. The team will involve Elected Members in the development of the new risk-based gully cleansing strategy in order to compare the data with their experience
- The Technical Services Partnership continues to achieve its KPI targets and through its Annual Service Plan is identifying innovative ways of working, service improvements and efficiencies which is evident in the report.
- How the Authority spends its allocated funding needs to be carefully balanced across the highway network
- Continued customer engagement is providing better intelligence on what the public want the Authority to focus highway maintenance efforts on. These include continuing improvements of residential and strategic roads and footways and improving the gully cleaning service
- Following the publication of the revised national code of practice, Well-managed Highway Infrastructure, the Technical Services Partnership has implemented a new risk-based Highway Inspection Policy. This was approved by Cabinet in October 2018 and has now become embedded in operational procedures
- The Authority has delivered all programmed highway asset improvement schemes to date.

## **1.6 Decision options:**

As this report is for Cabinet’s information there are no decisions options.

## **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 2019.

## **1.8 Appendices:**

Appendix 1: Highway Asset Management Plan 2017 to 2032 Annual Information Report, October 2019

## **1.9 Contact officers:**

Mark Newlands, Highways and Infrastructure Manager, tel. (0191) 643 6129  
Andrew Mollon, Associate, Capita tel. 07711780083  
Colin MacDonald, Senior Manager, Technical and Regulatory Services, tel. (0191) 643 6620

## **1.10 Background information:**

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

- (1) [North Tyneside Highway Asset Management Plan 2017 - 2032](#)

## **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, in the context of difficult financial circumstances and the absence of sufficient funding from central government, that there remains a significant backlog of highway repairs that is likely to increase. 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**

The Annual Information Report (at Section 11) describes the approach to customer engagement. Public engagement activity is conducted in line with Authority's Engagement Strategy and is planned through the Engagement Team.

### **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 2017 to 2032.

## 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

- Chief Executive  X
- Head of Service  X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member  X
- Chief Finance Officer  X
- Monitoring Officer  X
- Head of Corporate Strategy and Customer Service  X