

# North Tyneside Council

## Report to Cabinet

### Date: 19 October 2020

#### Title: North Tyneside Highway Asset Management Plan Annual Information Report 2020

---

**Portfolio:** Environment and Transport

**Cabinet Member:**

**Councillor Carl Johnson**

---

**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**

---

## 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 fourth annual report presented since adoption of the HAMP.

Over the last 12 months the highway network has remained in a steady state of good condition and a number of positive changes to the highway maintenance service have been made such as improvements to our gully cleansing and drainage services.

The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic presented a major challenge. However, following a short period of disruption resulting from the lockdown restrictions introduced by Government in March, the service was able to adapt and recover quickly. Full service provision was restored by June due to the introduction of a comprehensive range of Covid-secure measures being put in place to ensure services could be performed safely.

## **1.2 Recommendation:**

It is recommended that Cabinet note the content of the HAMP Annual Information Report 2020, 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 4 September 2020.

## **1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework**

This report is relevant to the following priorities set out in the 'Our North Tyneside' Council Plan 2020-24:

- 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 2020, 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 2020

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 **£1,895,000,000 (£1.895 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 maintaining a steady state in the condition of the road network
- The continued additional capital investment in highway maintenance is keeping the overall condition of the network in a steady state of good condition in line with HAMP principles. This fact is illustrated by the positive "Road Condition Indicator" calculation results recorded on page 14 of the Information Report
- The Technical Services Partnership has introduced new technology to measure silt levels in gully pots and has implemented a new risk-based approach to gully cleansing. The second full cycle of cleansing and data gathering has been completed with data available on over 44,000 road gullies in North Tyneside. The new gully cleansing regime was rolled out in the summer of 2020 and gullies are now cleaned as needed rather than routinely visited. This ensures better use of resources
- 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 concerning where the public want the Authority to focus highway maintenance efforts. These include continuing improvements to residential and strategic roads and footways and improving the gully cleaning service
- The Authority has delivered all programmed highway asset improvement schemes to date
- Following the Authority's declaration of a climate emergency, the Highways Service has been assisting in supporting this area of work. For example, the Technical Services Partnership is now working with the road resurfacing supply chain to explore new products that will contribute to reducing the Authority's carbon footprint. Further detail is set out in Section 12.4 of the report.

### 1.5.9 Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic

On 24 March 2020, following the Government's decision to introduce lockdown restrictions, Capita, in consultation with North Tyneside Council, made the decision to suspend undertaking highway safety inspections and repairs with immediate effect to comply with published guidance.

This decision was kept under review leading to a number of risk assessments being undertaken to determine what elements of the service would still need to continue during the lockdown to comply with statutory requirements. The first service to have a partial resumption was highway safety inspections and emergency repairs. During this period, senior Capita officers met daily with council officers to ensure that highways decisions were strictly in line with Government guidance and emergency response decisions being taken by the Authority.

The Technical Services Partnership continued to monitor guidance issued by Government and review what services could be returned with risk assessments and method statements being put in place to protect staff and the public. The Highway Service was able to resume full operations on 24 June 2020.

#### **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 2020.

#### **1.8 Appendices:**

Appendix 1: Highway Asset Management Plan 2017 to 2032 Annual Information Report, October 2020.

#### **1.9 Contact officers:**

Mark Newlands, Highways and Infrastructure Manager, tel. (0191) 643 6129  
Anthony Hewitt, Highways and Construction Director, Capita, tel. 07740 531 130  
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 that there remains a significant backlog of highway repairs that is likely to increase if current funding levels are not 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**

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 are 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 information report informs Cabinet of the condition of the built environment with regard to highway infrastructure. The information report also sets out how the Highways Service is contributing towards carbon reduction following the Authority's declaration of a climate emergency.

### **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