

North Tyneside Council

Report to Cabinet

Date: 29 November 2021

Title: Highway Asset Management Plan Annual Information Report 2021

Portfolios: Environment	Cabinet Member: Councillor Sandra Graham
Report from Service Areas: Environment, Housing & Leisure	
Responsible Officer: Phil Scott, Director 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 residents has consistently informed the Authority that the maintenance of roads and footpaths is a top priority. This is reflected in the Council Plan including a commitment to continue to invest additional capital funding in repairing roads and pavements.

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 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 fifth 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. Maintaining that position continues to be challenging. A number of positive changes to the highway maintenance service have been made such as improvements to our road condition survey methodology.

The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic initially presented a major challenge. However, following the introduction of safe working measures (as reported last year), the Highways Service has been able to continue operating normally over the last 12 months.

1.2 Recommendation:

It is recommended that Cabinet note the content of the HAMP Annual Information Report 2021, 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 3 September 2021.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

The proposals in this report relate to a number of themes in Our North Tyneside, the Council Plan 2021 to 2025, in particular:

- A secure North Tyneside
 - We will continue to invest £2m per year on fixing our roads and pavements
- A green North Tyneside
 - We will increase opportunities for safe walking and cycling, including providing a segregated cycleway at the coast
- A thriving North Tyneside
 - We will review how the council purchases and contracts for goods and services to maximise value for money, social value and environmental sustainability

1.5 Information:

Background

- 1.5.1 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.
- 1.5.2 The Authority is responsible for an extensive highway network and feedback from residents has consistently told the Authority that the maintenance of roads and footpaths is a top priority.
- 1.5.3 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 footways.
- 1.5.4 Currently the highway maintenance activities delivered through the HAMP are funded through a range of funding streams. Capital work is funded by the annual Local Transport Plan Maintenance Block. For a number of years additional funding has been invested directly by the Authority and a commitment has been made within the Our North Tyneside Plan to continue to do so.

- 1.5.5 Cabinet is invited to consider and note the contents of the HAMP Annual Information Report 2021, 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.
- 1.5.6 Following the Cabinet meeting, all ward councillors will be invited to view the HAMP Annual Information Report via the members intranet. The report will also be published on the Authority's website so it can be viewed by the public.

Key Highlights of the HAMP Annual Information Report 2021

- 1.5.7 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 **£1,840,000,000 (£1.84 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 has so far achieved a generally steady state in the condition of the road network but maintaining that position continues to be challenging
 - The continued additional capital investment in highway maintenance is keeping the overall condition of the network in a relatively steady state of good condition in line with HAMP principles. This fact is illustrated by the positive "Road Condition Indicator" calculation results recorded in Section 6 of the Information Report. However, latest condition modelling would indicate that it may be a challenge to sustain this in the future
 - The new risk-based gully cleansing regime, supported by specialist information technology introduced last year, is now fully embedded and has improved the Authority's gully cleansing service over the last 12 months
 - The Technical Services Partnership continues to achieve its Key Performance Indicator targets and through its Annual Service Plan is identifying innovative ways of working and service improvements 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 resident satisfaction and new initiatives are being developed to improve the customer experience
 - The Authority has delivered all programmed highway asset improvement schemes to date.

Covid-19 Pandemic

1.5.8 During the last 18 months the Highways Service has had to operate within the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. Last year it was reported that following a series of risk assessments and the introduction of new safe working procedures, the Highways Service was able to resume full operations in June 2020. Since then, the Service has continued to function normally and is providing the same level of service as it did pre-pandemic.

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 2021.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix 1: Highway Asset Management Plan 2017 to 2032 Annual Information Report, November 2021

1.9 Contact officers:

Mark Newlands, Highways & Infrastructure Manager, 0191 643 6129
Nick Preston, Capita Operations Manager, 07594 522116
Colin MacDonald, Senior Manager, Technical & Regulatory Services, 0191 643 6416
Cathy Davison, Principal Accountant Investment (Capital) and Revenue, 0191 643 5727

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:

[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. Maintaining the highway in a good condition continues to be challenging. The position is being monitored and will be considered further as part of the medium term financial planning 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 10) 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 equality and diversity issues 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 arising directly 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. Wherever possible, the Highways Service seeks to utilise sustainable methods in order to support the Authority's work around tackling climate change and declaration by the Council of a climate emergency. This includes the use of recycled materials, low temperature asphalt products and so on.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive
- Director of Service
- Mayor/Cabinet Member
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Assistant Chief Executive