



Worcestershire County Council

Highways Asset Management Policy

Version: 2.0

Reviewed: January 2021

Team: Highways, Economy and Infrastructure Directorate

1 Purpose of Policy

Worcestershire County Council recognises the vital role played by the County's local highway network in achieving its core purpose, vision and objectives in its Corporate Plan called "Shaping Worcestershire's Future 2017 to 2022".

The Highway Asset Management Policy sets out Worcestershire County Council's commitment to highway asset management and demonstrates how the County's asset management approach aligns with the County Council's Core Purpose and vision with its medium to longer term objectives. This Policy also ensures that the investment in the highway maintenance service supports the County Council's wider transport objectives as outlined in the Local Transport Plan v4 (LTP4).

2 Worcestershire County Council's Core Vision and Priorities

2.1 The Vision

The Corporate Plan called "Shaping Worcestershire's Future 2017 – 2022" sets out the following Vision:

"We have an ambitious vision to improve the county as a place to live, work, visit and invest in. We aim to help people achieve their full potential and live healthy, happy, prosperous and independent lives for as long as possible."

It has four supporting key priorities:

1. Championing Open for Business

Worcestershire has one of the fastest growing local economies in the country. Being "Open for Business" remains the key priority for the Council. This is vital if both individuals and businesses are to achieve their full potential and if Worcestershire is going to continue to prosper.

A successful and growing local economy will generate wealth for residents and businesses, and this growth will increase Council income, enabling us to invest more in those areas that our residents and businesses tell us are most important to them.

2. Supporting Children and Families

We are focused on improving outcomes for all children, young people and families in Worcestershire. Our ambition is to see more children and young people achieving their full potential in education and being fully prepared to live happy, healthy, independent and prosperous adult lives.

Keeping children and young people safe is a key priority for this Council and its partners. When the only safe option, for those vulnerable children and young people most at risk, is to come into our care, we will focus our efforts on providing a positive care experience in order for them to thrive and achieve their maximum potential.

3. Protecting the Environment

Our environment is one of the county’s key features, providing easy access to the countryside and a wealth of stunning scenery. Our country parks, open spaces and woodlands provide great walking and cycling opportunities which support our health and well-being vision.

Worcestershire is a diverse county with fantastic examples of a historic and natural environment, which contributes to the unique character of the county.

4. Promoting Health and Well-being

It is our priority, working with partners, to ensure Worcestershire residents are healthier, live longer, have a better quality of life and remain independent for as long as possible.

We will work together with partners and communities to enable Worcestershire residents to make responsible choices when planning their lives to achieve the best possible outcomes. We will enable individuals to become or remain independent, self-reliant and an integrated part of their local communities.

2.2 The Local Transport Plan (fourth edition)

Worcestershire’s Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2018 to 2030 represents an ambitious investment programme in our transport networks, including infrastructure, technology and services which are essential to support planned growth, to ensure our continued social and economic success as a highly desirable place to live, work and visit. The LTP is underpinned by Worcestershire County Council’s Corporate Plan “Shaping Worcestershire’s Future 2017-2022” with its four key priorities.

The LTP also reflects the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership’s (LEP) Vision for the county:

“To build a connected, creative, dynamic economy that delivers increased prosperity for all those who choose to live, work, visit and invest in Worcestershire.”

In supporting the Vision and objectives for the Corporate Plan and supporting the Strategic Growth Plan for the LEP, the LTP has set out the following transport objectives:

Worcestershire County Council's Corporate Plan – Key Themes	Worcestershire Local Transport Plan Objectives
Open for Business	To support Worcestershire's economic competitiveness and growth through delivering a safe, reliable and efficient transport network. The Economic Objective
The Environment Health and Wellbeing Children and Families	To limit the impacts of transport in Worcestershire on the local environment, by supporting enhancements to the natural environment and biodiversity, investing in transport infrastructure to reduce flood risk and other environmental damage, and reducing transport-related emissions of nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, greenhouse gases and noise pollution. This will support delivery of the desired outcomes of tackling climate change and reducing the impacts of transport on public health. The Environment Objective
Health and Wellbeing Children and Families	To contribute towards better safety, security, health and longer life expectancy in Worcestershire, by reducing the risk of death, injury or illness arising from transport and promoting healthy modes of travel. The Health and Safety Objective
Health and Wellbeing Children and Families	To optimise equality of opportunity for all of Worcestershire's citizens with the desired outcome of creating a fairer society. The Equality Objective
The Environment Health and Wellbeing Children and Families	To enhance the quality of life for Worcestershire's residents by promoting a healthy, natural environment, for people, wildlife and habitats, conserving our historic built environment and preserving our heritage assets. The Quality of Life Objective

2.2 Transport Asset Management Plan

The Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP) is a key document that sets out the primary asset types of Worcestershire County Council's entire road network, including the primary asset types of carriageway, footway, streetlights, bridges and traffic signals, and also the secondary asset types such as signs and drainage which support the road network functions.

Many asset management practices are already undertaken by the various Service Areas within Worcestershire County Council that have responsibility for road assets. The TAMP formally sets out the scope of these practices and the methods used.

Worcestershire County Council's published strategies and objectives indicate public aspirations supported by an effective road network. In particular, the Local Transport Plan (LTP) directs this TAMP to outcomes expected of the network. Worcestershire County Council is constantly seeking to enhance the current approach to transport asset management, thereby becoming more effective and improving our ability to meet national and local objectives and customer needs. The TAMP has the following objectives to:

- Achieve corporate objectives.
- Include all highway and transportation assets.
- Monitor the condition and performance of assets.
- Prioritise greatest need.
- Use optimisation tools to develop options for current and future service delivery, forward financial planning and investment and asset renewal programmes.
- Provide value for money by optimising the long-term life cycle costs of assets and through improved system and practices.
- Enable Worcestershire County Council to meet the Government's future requirements for financial planning for transport.
- Demonstrate effective management of assets on behalf of customers and stakeholders.
- Planning for future asset requirements based on projected demand and service levels.
- Seek the views of asset group users on appropriate service levels.
- Increase the horizon and confidence in future planning and programmes.
- Adopt best practice.

The adoption of a formalised asset management approach builds on the foundations of existing practices but also represents a large step improvement in what we do. The TAMP sets out practices in regard to these elements as far as is possible. Where changes are identified in the information and systems necessary to refine this process they are set out in an improvement plan.

The ways in which the TAMP supports the LTP in delivering these outcomes are set out within the document.

3 Role of Highway Asset Management in delivering the Council's Core Purpose:

Highway Asset Management is a strategic approach identifying the optimal investment for the management, operation, preservation and enhancement of the highway transport network to meet the present and future needs of all transport users.

Worcestershire's transport infrastructure provides a vital public asset for all the communities in the County by facilitating mobility for local communities and connectivity for businesses. The local highway network is by far the most valuable publically owned asset managed by Worcestershire County Council (WCC) which has a total Gross Replacement Cost of £5.6 billion. Thus, the importance in its effective and efficient management, together with continuous investment year on year is key.

3. Policy Statement

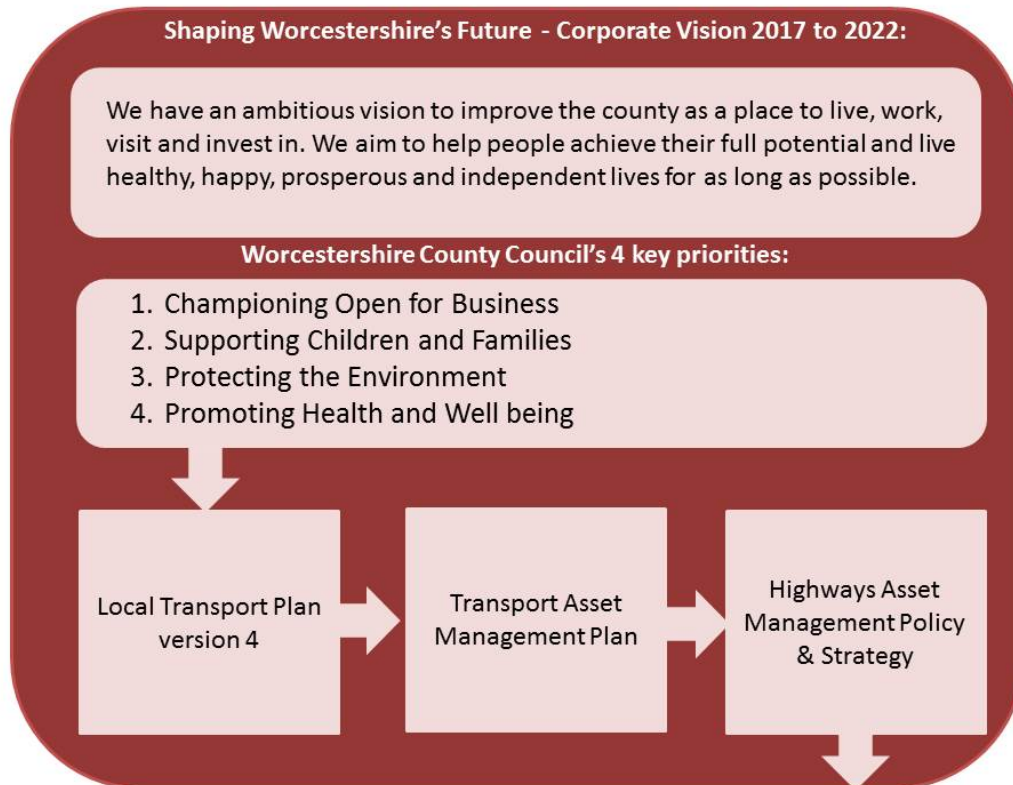
The way the highway network is managed and maintained has a direct impact on the county council's ability to deliver on its corporate priorities and other outcomes. Residents, businesses and visitors all depend upon safe and reliable journeys using our highway network to sustain our economic growth and transportation needs. Increasingly, there is a need to manage and maintain the network to respond to environmental change, in particular, to extremes of weather and climate change. Worcestershire County Council recognises that delivering a reliable and well-connected highway network requires the effective implementation of the highway asset management strategy and framework. By adopting this approach, the County Council's resources will be targeted efficiently to provide a well-managed highway network for its communities and businesses both now and in the future.

- Maintain a safe, reliable and resilient network to enable residents, business users, tourists and those passing through Worcestershire to undertake their necessary journeys.
- Provide a well maintained highway infrastructure to enable communities to access all key local services including education, training, healthcare, employment and leisure facilities.
- Ensure that the County's transport infrastructure is efficiently managed and maintained within the available budgets by balancing competing needs and priorities.
- Use asset management principals to maintain a highway service that operates at optimal cost and utilises future investment in an efficient and effective manner in the medium and long term, thus maximising value for tax payers.

- Develop risk management strategies to identify and address proportionate and affordable asset availability for the transport infrastructure.

Figure 1 below shows the link between the Corporate Plan's Vision and key priorities with the Highways Asset Management Policy that are translated into strategic, tactical and operational highway asset management objectives and priorities:

Figure 1 – Corporate Plan linkage



Strategic Priorities

1. Deliver a safe, reliable and efficient transport network .
2. Limit the impacts of transport in Worcestershire on the local environment by supporting enhancements to the natural environment and biodiversity, investing in transport infrastructure to reduce flood risk and other environmental damage and reducing transport related emissions to support tackle climate change and impacts on public health.
3. To contribute towards better safety, security, health and longer life expectancy by reducing the risk of death, injury or illness from transport and promoting healthy modes of travel.
4. Enhance the quality of life for residents by promoting a healthy, natural environment for people, wildlife and habitats, conserving our historic built environment and preserving our heritage assets.
5. Optimise equality of opportunity for all Worcestershire's citizens with the desired outcome of creating a fairer society.



Tactical Priorities

- Effective Highways Asset Management
- Delivery of Public Realm Schemes across the county
- Robust and effective Regulation and Governance
- Effective flood risk management and alleviation schemes
- Effective Winter Service operations
- Effective Reactive and Cyclic operations
- Effective Design and Build schemes
- Effective Transportation planning
- Streetscene partnerships with District Councils for joined up service delivery
- County Highway Liaison Engineers for each Divisional Member
- Highways and Transportation Control Centre for effective communications and coordination



Asset Management Objectives

- A strategic approach over the long term to manage the highway network
- Improve asset condition and performance
- Collect and analyse asset management data
- Meeting stakeholders' needs
- Using a systematic approach for service delivery and programmes of work
- Managing expenditure over the asset lifecycle
- Meeting performance and condition requirements in the most efficient way
- Managing risk
- Prioritise roads that would benefit from the use of preventative maintenance processes to prolong the life of our carriageway assets

Service Delivery & Operational Objectives

- Engage and communicate effectively to the public and stakeholders
- Support corporate priorities in the Corporate Plan
- Collect and analyse asset management data
- Deploy optimal use of resources
- Utilise a Performance Management Framework
- Provide value for money and continuous improvement from an informed and efficient contract (HMSC)

Service Delivery & Operational Outcomes

- Ensure we have a safe and resilient highway network
- Prioritise works across the county to maximise efficiency
- Develop and implement long term maintenance works programmes
- Provide levels of service that support service delivery priorities
- Where feasible carry out permanent first time repairs to potholes
- Install energy efficient Street Lighting lanterns as a matter of course when lanterns are replaced.
- Adhere to the 'Well Managed Highway Infrastructure' Code of Practice recommendations.