

ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14TH DECEMBER 2020

HIGHWAY ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN – ANNUAL STATEMENT REPORT 2020

Purpose:

To present the Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP) Annual Statement Report 2020 for information and consideration

To consider and comment on the following issues:

To consider and note the contents of the report which provides an update on the condition and performance of the highway network and related financial information

Reasons: The report provides an annual update as set out within the Highway Asset Management Plan adopted by Council in July 2018.

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: -

Cllr. Hazel Evans, Executive Board Member for Environment.

Directorate Environment
Name of Head of Service:
Stephen Pilliner

Designations:
Head of Highways and Transport

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14TH DECEMBER 2020

HIGHWAY ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN – ANNUAL STATEMENT REPORT 2020

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

In July 2018 Council resolved to adopt the Highway Asset Management Plan which included an undertaking to present an Annual Statement Report on the condition and performance of the highway network and to include investment options, and their implications on the asset condition, within the report. An Annual Statement Report was subsequently presented in 2019.

The Annual Statement Report 2020 includes an overview of the highway network and provides detailed commentary on the following three key highway asset areas:

- Highways (carriageways, footways and cycleways)
- Bridges and Structures
- Highway Lighting and Traffic Signals

For each asset category the report details its condition, how its condition has changed since the last report and how it will change into the future depending on funding scenarios which are set out within the report.

The Annual Statement Report summarises that the Highway network in Carmarthenshire is the second largest in Wales and extends to over 3500Km. Although much of the County is predominantly rural in nature it nevertheless has the third highest level of traffic in Wales.

In common with highway authorities around the country Carmarthenshire has a backlog of highway maintenance and that backlog is unfortunately growing. This has necessitated a risk-based approach to its management to focus on the higher priorities for resource allocation.

The highway network carries a range of road users from cyclists and pedestrians through to 44 tonne heavy goods vehicles and operates through weather conditions ranging from hot sunny summers to sub-zero winters with snow and ice. All of these impact on the fabric of the highway asset and continuous investment is required to ensure it is fit for purpose. Carmarthenshire has one of the lower quartile rates of spend per kilometre on highways and roads for Wales.

Welsh Government grant funding (£5.2M over three years 2018-21) has topped-up the authority's budgets and since the last report we have resurfaced 34Km of roads. This has kept our roads relatively stable with a slight deterioration overall. However, 2020/21 is the final year of grant funding so investment levels will dip significantly if there is no further grant. Unless the level of investment and revenue budget is sustained there will be deterioration of our roads and this is

modelled within the report.

The authority's footway and cycle network exceed 1000km in length, investment in maintenance has been modest and is mainly focused on local priorities.

Our highways are supported by almost 1,900 structures which includes around 800 bridges, 560 retaining walls 459 large culverts and 49 footbridges. Welsh Government grant funding has helped address storm damaged areas particularly along the A484 where new retaining walls have been required in a number of locations. The number of sub-standard structures has decreased from 56 to 54 and these are being carefully monitored to ensure they remain safe for public use.

Our street lighting system includes over 20,000 lighting units. We also manage 5000 units for our Town and Community Councils. Less efficient street lighting units have been converted to LED and since the last report the Public Lighting Team have worked with Town and Community Councils to introduce LED lighting units in Community Lights. This project was developed on an invest to save basis to reduce carbon emissions, lower energy costs and improved light quality. The project was completed in the summer of 2020.

The Public Lighting Team have also introduced new technology to enable efficient mobile working so that lighting surveys, checks and works can be recorded electronically in place of the previous paper-based system. There are two significant challenges for the Public Lighting Team. There are 1,662 older steel lighting columns which are beyond their service life and should be replaced to avoid the risk of collapse. There is also 304Km of underground electrical cabling which is ageing and is not being replaced. An investment programme is required to renew this cabling to prevent cable faults, power outages and to ensure public safety.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES -Highway Asset Management Plan: Annual Statement Report 2020

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: **S Pilliner** Head of Highways & Transportation

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	YES	NONE	YES

Finance

The Annual Statement Report 2020 details the implications of various funding scenarios which will be subject to future budget setting and grant availability.

Risk Management Issues

The Highways Asset Management Plan adopts a risk based approach to managing the highway network and details of this are set out within the Highway Asset Management Plan.

Physical Assets

The Highway Asset Management Plan sets out the Council's approach in managing the highway asset and relates this to national, regional and county objectives. The Annual Statement Report 2020 provides information on the current condition of the asset and sets out how the asset condition has changed and will change in the future depending on funding scenarios.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: **S G Pilliner** Head of Highways & Transportation

1. **Scrutiny Committee** - N/A
2. **Local Member(s)** - N/A
3. **Community / Town Council** - N/A
4. **Relevant Partners** - N/A
5. **Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** - N/A

EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO HOLDER AWARE/CONSULTED	YES
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Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:
THERE ARE NONE