

# ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021

## HIGHWAY ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN – ANNUAL STATEMENT REPORT 2021

**Purpose:**

To present the Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP) Annual Statement Report 2021 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.

**Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted**

To be presented for information at Environment and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**To be referred to the Cabinet / Council for decision: NO**

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-** Councillor Hazel Evans

Environment Directorate  
Name of Head of Service:  
Stephen Pilliner

Designations:  
Head of Highways &  
Transport

E Mail Addresses:  
[SGPilliner@cararthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:SGPilliner@cararthenshire.gov.uk)

Report Authors:  
Richard Waters  
Chris Nelson

H&T Services Manager  
Highway Asset Manager

[rwaters@cararthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:rwaters@cararthenshire.gov.uk)  
[CNelson@cararthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:CNelson@cararthenshire.gov.uk)

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021

### HIGHWAY ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN: ANNUAL STATEMENT REPORT 2021

#### BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

In July 2018 Council adopted the Highway Asset Management Plan which included an undertaking to present each year an Annual Statement Report on the condition and performance of the highway network. The Report was to include investment options and their implications on the asset condition. Annual Statement Reports were subsequently presented in 2019 and 2020.

The Annual Statement Report 2021 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

#### Highways

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 still has the third highest level of traffic in Wales.

Carmarthenshire has a backlog of highway maintenance work, which is growing, and in common with other local authorities a risk-based approach has been adopted in line with a national code of practice *Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure* 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. The highway network is also being increasingly impacted by storm events which can lead to highway flooding and undermine the support for our highways. All of these are detrimental to the fabric of the highway asset and continuous investment is required to ensure it is fit for purpose.

In recent years additional funding has been available and Welsh Government grant funding (£1.5M) combined with County Council funding (£1.55M) has helped to maintain the asset with approximately 25km of roads resurfaced in 2020/21. This has helped to keep our higher-class roads in a relatively stable condition. However, an overall annual investment of £6M per year is required to keep all Carmarthenshire's roads in a stable condition.

A capital bid has been submitted to increase this level of annual investment but without it the minor road network will continue to deteriorate. Overall, it is calculated that there is currently a highway maintenance backlog of over £38M.

The authority's footway and cycle network exceed 1000km in length, investment in maintenance has been very modest and is mainly focused on local priorities. The division has submitted a Capital bid of £500k pa to develop a modest footway and cycleway refurbishment programme.

### **Bridges and Structures**

Our highways are supported by almost 1,900 structures (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 many locations.

The number of sub-standard structures has decreased from 54 to 50 and these are being carefully monitored to ensure they remain safe for public use.

The overall bridge stock condition has remained relatively stable.

### **Highway Lighting and Traffic Signals**

Our street lighting system includes over 20,000 lighting units. We also manage 5000 units for our Town and Community Councils. LED lighting units have been introduced for County and Community lights to replace less efficient street lighting units on an invest to save basis. This has reduced carbon emissions, lowered energy costs and improved light quality. The project was completed in the summer of 2020 and is estimated to have saved 1,200 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

There are two significant challenges for the Public Lighting Team:

- Ageing lighting columns, including more than 7,000 steel columns need to be replaced to avoid the risk of collapse. A programme is underway for this.
- 304Km of deteriorating underground electrical cabling needs replacing to prevent cable faults, power outages and to ensure public safety. A funding application has been made for this.

The County Council also has 54 signalised pedestrian crossings and 20 signalised junctions.

### **Recommendation.**

That the report be noted.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**YES –**

**Highway Asset Management Plan: Annual Statement Report 2021**

## 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 <b>NONE</b>	Legal <b>NONE</b>	Finance <b>YES</b>	ICT <b>NONE</b>	Risk Management Issues <b>YES</b>	Staffing Implications <b>NONE</b>	Physical Assets <b>YES</b>
--	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	-------------------------------

### Finance

The Annual Statement Report 2021 details the implications of various funding scenarios which will be subject to future budget setting and grant availability. The report also details that funding bids have been submitted to address key maintenance issues.

### 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 2021 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

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information**  
**List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**  
**THERE ARE NONE**