

# PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2023

## HIGHWAY ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN – MAINTENANCE MANUAL PARTS 4.5, 4.6 & 4.7

### Purpose:

To adopt sections 4.5 to 4.7 of the Maintenance Manual in support of the Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP) which was approved by Executive Board in July 2018. The Maintenance Manual forms Part 4 of the HAMP and is being developed as a portfolio of specific manuals covering the management of a range of highway asset categories. Parts 4.1 to 4.4 were adopted in 2021. The sections brought forward at this time cover:

Part 4.5	Highway Drainage Management
Part 4.6	Geotechnical Management
Part 4.7	Highway Emergency Response

Further sections will be brought forward in future years.

### THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

Review and assess the information contained in the Report and provide any recommendations, comments, or advice

### Reason

To formulate views for submission to the Cabinet / Council for consideration

### CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Councillor Edward Thomas - Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services.

<b>Directorate</b> <b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Stephen Pilliner	<b>Designations:</b> Head of Highways & Transport	<b>E Mail Addresses:</b> <a href="mailto:SGPilliner@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">SGPilliner@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2023**

**HIGHWAY ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN –  
MAINTENANCE MANUAL PARTS 4.5, 4.6 & 4.7**

**1. SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.**

In 2018 Council adopted the Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP) to ensure that the County Council manages and maintains the highway network in accordance with its statutory duties and to comply with best practice.

The HAMP is in line with national codes of practice and adopts a risk-based approach which targets limited resources to areas where they are most needed and where our investment will derive greatest value. This does mean that difficult decisions have to be made and the HAMP sets out the overarching policies and methodology to ensure that those decisions are evidence led and based on an equitable and objective analysis which reduces the authority's exposure to risk and provides best value for the long-term integrity of the highway asset. There are four parts to the HAMP:

Part 1	Explained the supporting role of the highway network in the wider policy context.
Part 2	Set out the highway network policies which are in place or being developed and our objectives adopted in managing the highway network utilising a risk-based approach.
Part 3	Comprises an Annual Statement which informs on the condition of the asset.
Part 4	A Maintenance Manual consisting of a portfolio of topic specific manuals setting out how particular elements of the highway asset are managed in line with the risk-based approach.

In December 2021 Cabinet approved the adoption of Parts 4.1 to 4.4 of the Maintenance Manual\*. This covered the following areas:

- Part 4.1 Highway Maintenance Management
- Part 4.2 Highway Network Hierarchy
- Part 4.3 Highway Safety Inspections & Repairs
- Part 4.4 Road Conditions Assessment and Investment Prioritisation

[\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Cabinet, 06/12/2021 10:00 \(gov.wales\)](#)

This report concerns is the second set of specific manuals covering the following areas:

- Part 4.5. Highway Drainage Management.
- Part 4.6. Geotechnical Management.
- Part 4.7. Highway Emergency Response

An overview is provided below with a full copy of Parts 4.5-4.7 are attached as a supporting document.

## **Part 4.5 Highway Drainage Management**

This part sets out the components of the highway drainage asset which includes around 60,000 road gullies, 2,900 grips, over 5,000 chambers and almost 1,400km of underground pipes.

The manual explains the risk-based approach being adopted to manage and maintain these assets including the cleaning frequencies of gullies, the investigation and repair of defects and the survey and assessment of high priority systems.

The manual also explains that there are around 760km of roadside ditches the Council has a right of continued discharge into but are normally the responsibility of the adjacent landowner.

## **Part 4.6 Geotechnical Management**

This part of the Manual explains that geotechnical failures often result in embankments either collapsing onto the highway, or a collapse of the highway itself, cause considerable disruption and are expensive to repair.

The section sets out the main topographical and geomorphological features of Carmarthenshire, the hydrological influences and the common geological features of the County.

The Manual sets out Inspection, monitoring and management regimes, how remedial schemes are developed and the five-year Geotechnical Asset Management Plan which has been developed.

## **Part 4.7 Highway Emergency Response.**

The Manual explains the Highways role in supporting a multi-agency response to major incidents and as a stand-alone response to minor or localised incidents and events.

The Manual sets out the Duty Officer system in place to provide a continuous all-year-round service operating outside normal office hours which manages and responds to emergencies, adverse weather events, public reported issues and supports other Category 1 responders.

<b>DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?</b>	<b>YES</b>
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# 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
<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>

## 2. Legal

The County Council has a statutory duty under the Highways Act 1980 Section 41 to maintain the highway and to keep them safe for public use. Through the adoption of the HAMP and its associated Maintenance Manual the County Council will be ensuring that it discharges this statutory duty and maintains the highway asset in a safe and reasonable manner.

## 2. Finance

The budgets available to local authorities to manage the highway asset have been under pressure for many years. The Maintenance Manual adopts a risk-based approach to make best use of available funding. The condition of the highway asset and the impacts of investment options are reported annually within the HAMP Annual Statement Report.

## 5. Risk Management Issues

The HAMP and Maintenance Manual adopt risk management as a core theme. This approach is in accordance with national codes of practice and adopts standards recommended by the County Surveyors Society Wales, where available, for a consistent approach across Wales.

## 6. Physical Assets

The highway network represents one of the County Council's most valuable assets with an estimated value of carriageways alone at £2.6Bn. Having a highway network which is fit for purpose is an essential component of supporting a healthy, prosperous and connected society.

In 2018 Council adopted the HAMP which set out the overarching goals, objectives and strategies for managing this critical asset. The Maintenance Manual is being developed to provide a portfolio of individual manuals setting out how each asset category is managed. The parts of the manual covered by this report include Highway Drainage Management, Geotechnical Management and Highway Emergency Response.

## 7. Staffing Implications

The role of staff in delivering Parts 4.5 – 4.7 of the Maintenance Manual is discussed within each part of the Manual and is in keeping with current job profiles.

<b>CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER AWARE/CONSULTED</b>		YES
<b>Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:</b>		
<b>Title of Document</b>	<b>File Ref No.</b>	<b>Locations that the papers are available for public inspection</b>
<b>Highway Asset Management Plan</b>		<u>(Public Pack)Agenda Document for Executive Board, 02/07/2018 14:00 (gov.wales)</u>
<b>Highway Asset Management Plan - Maintenance Manual Parts 4.1 to 4.4</b>		<u>(Public Pack)Agenda Document for Cabinet, 06/12/2021 10:00 (gov.wales)</u>