

Highway Infrastructure
Asset Management Policy
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

September 2017

Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council is the Highway Authority for all highways in the borough except for motorways and trunk roads, and under the Highways Act 1980, has a statutory duty of care to users and the community to maintain the highway in a condition fit for purpose, as far as is reasonably practicable.

This policy not only supports Sandwell's statutory duties it also forms part of a suite of asset management documents that have been developed in accordance with best practice asset management guidance, it demonstrates Sandwell's commitment to asset management and supports future funding through the DfT Incentive Fund Self-Assessment process.

Sandwell has adopted an Asset Management approach to managing and maintaining its highway infrastructure. This is a systematic and strategic approach that will enable us to make decisions over what services we want to provide and what we can achieve within our financial resources. It enables us to identify the best allocation of our resources for the management, operation, preservation and enhancement of the highway infrastructure to meet the needs of current and future demands.

This policy and the asset management strategy are supported by the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (HIAMP). The HIAMP is the framework that sets out how we invest in, manage and operate the highway infrastructure to meet our statutory obligations, satisfy public expectations and deliver Sandwell Council's Vision 2030.

The highway infrastructure is Sandwell's most visible and valuable asset. It is used daily by residents, businesses and visitors alike making important contributions to economic growth, social inclusion, community safety, education and health. The highway infrastructure under our control is currently valued at £3.6bn, and comprises of a network consisting of 880 km of roads and 1400 km of footways. In order for us to achieve cost effective maintenance for the future, the management, development and maintenance of the highway infrastructure assets is key.

The West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) produced the West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan (WMSTP), '*Movement for Growth*' in partnership with Sandwell and its neighbouring councils. It sets out the policies, strategies, objectives and targets for improving regional transport. The West Midlands Metropolitan area vision for transport is:

"We will make great progress for a midlands economic 'Engine for Growth', clean air, improved health and quality of life for the people of the West Midlands. We will do this by creating a transport system befitting a sustainable, attractive and economically vibrant conurbation in the world's sixth largest economy".

This highway infrastructure asset management policy is aligned to the WMSTP vision and will help deliver its five key challenges:

- Economic growth and economic inclusion
- Population growth and housing development
- Environment
- Public health
- Social well-being

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council - Vision 2030

This highway infrastructure asset management policy fully supports Sandwell Council's Vision 2030:

In 2030, Sandwell is a thriving, optimistic and resilient community.

It's where we call home and where we're proud to belong – where we choose to bring up our families, where we feel safe and cared for, enjoying good health, rewarding work, feeling connected and valued in our neighbourhoods and communities, confident in the future, and benefitting fully from a revitalised West Midlands.

The highway infrastructure is internally managed by Highway Services, a division within Neighbourhood Services'. The relevant Corporate Business Plans set out the Neighbourhood Services' priorities for delivering the growth agenda, supporting infrastructure; combating climate change; securing resources for major regeneration; maintaining/improving a road network that is operationally safe.

The asset management approach will directly support the key aims of Highway Services;

- Improving the safety of the highway network
- Integrate with developments and to support economic growth
- Reduce congestion, improve access to businesses and improve health
- Ensure that highway infrastructure and the fabric of the highway network is maintained to a functional standard.
- To manage the safe and efficient free flow of traffic on the highway network.

The adoption of a highway infrastructure asset management framework brings a strategic approach to the management of the highway infrastructure to meet the current and future network demands. In addition it will ensure that highway infrastructure assets are maintained to support both the local economy and the delivery of services whilst optimising the funding available and sustaining long term performance.

Signed

Leader of the Council

Signed

Chief Executive

Signed

Finance (Section 151) Officer