

Equality Impact Report

Title of proposal	Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy and Strategy 2020-2022	
Date of implementation	December 2020	
EIR completed by:	Name:	Rowan Sheppard
	Tel:	033022 3627

1. Decide whether this report is needed and, if so, describe how you have assessed the impact of the proposal.

West Sussex County Council is the Local Highway Authority and has a duty to maintain all highways (except trunk roads and motorways) within the County.

The highway infrastructure in West Sussex provides an important and vital contribution in creating a county of growth and opportunity where everyone thrives. As well as meeting the needs of local communities and supporting the requirements of businesses, the local highway network supports three key economic sub-areas that make up the County.

The strategic approach to Asset Management set out in the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy and Strategy, seeks to optimise the value of West Sussex’s highway infrastructure over its whole life. To deliver the Asset Management approach effectively these documents:

- facilitate decision making by supporting engineering judgement with financial, economic and engineering analysis
- enable understanding and management of whole life costs and asset performance
- provide data and evidence for effective and sustainable investment and maintenance decisions

Effective long term planning and forecasting of asset performance can minimise and prevent expensive short-term repairs. Strategic asset processes ensure the County Council are able to manage risk and maintain a highway environment that is safe and accessible for customers.

2. Describe any negative impact for customers or residents.

Decisions about the need for capital investment are based on the deterioration of the asset, optimum timing for maintenance, choice of treatment, and overall need to prevent deterioration or replace an asset. Considering the whole life of the asset to determine the timing of intervention enables decisions to be made based on the lowest whole life cost and provides good value.

Within this framework there is potential for there to be a perception of negative impact on protected groups, due to relative reductions in funding, changes in service or eligibility, or changes in how services are delivered.

The potential perception of a negative impact is mitigated by the development process of effective works programmes for individual asset groups. Maintenance need and scheme selection is informed by initial criteria used to prioritise and optimise the annual delivery programme. It takes account of the condition and serviceability of the asset, alongside safety issues and local transport priorities.

Social, economic and environmental benefits, local community or user demands, and political priorities are also factors used to differentiate between which schemes are prioritised for delivery within the budget limitations. These "soft" influences are identified using Value Management criteria. The level of influence, or weighting, each criterion has within individual asset group programmes will be periodically reviewed with the stakeholders and are communicated within the Lifecycle Plans for the relevant asset group.

3. Describe any positive effects which may offset any negative impact.

The proactive management of the Highway Infrastructure assets will contribute to our overall objective to improve the quality of life for all those who live, work and visit West Sussex by:

- Making more effective use of resources
- Monitoring asset condition
- Meeting expectations that the highway environment is maintained in a safe condition Enable assets to be available and accessible for use by all users
- Improved quality and service life of assets
- Managing the impact the highway network and its maintenance has on the environment

4. Describe whether and how the proposal helps to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation.

The focus of this Policy and Strategy is targeted at the overarching aims of the County Council, and the adopted Highway Infrastructure Themes of

- The right services and infrastructure are delivered in the right place at the right time
- The roads, pavements and paths are safe and well managed
- Transport choices are provided for all

It enhances awareness for those groups of our community who are most vulnerable to access difficulties within the highway network and wider street scene environment.

The Strategy promotes safer accessibility and access equality for those groups.

5. Describe whether and how the proposal helps to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy and Strategy promotes good industry practice and will enable a focus on future investment on highways assets that recognises the needs of all road users.

6. Describe whether and how the proposal helps to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

This programme promotes equality of access for all and will complement the delivery strategy as defined in the current West Sussex Transport Plan 2011 – 2026. In compliance with the aims and objectives detailed in this plan the County Council should achieve the overall objective of the current West Sussex Plan, and the visions being developed as part of the Rest Plan for West Sussex.

7. What changes were made to the proposal as a result? If none, explain why.

None.
The identification, prioritisation and optimisation processes for the development and delivery of highway infrastructure asset maintenance programmes enables social, economic and environmental benefits, local community or user demands, and political priorities to be assessed and accounted for.

8. Explain how the impact will be monitored to make sure it continues to meet the equality duty owed to customers and say who will be responsible for this.

Officers from the Highways and Transport team will monitor the delivery of individual maintenance projects and schemes. As part of post-delivery project strategy the delivery of maintenance schemes is reviewed against the desired deliverables, cost and resource, to ensure that it continues to meet our aims and objectives.

The performance framework provides visibility of the operational performance of our supply chain partners aligned to the strategic aims of the authority and the tactical delivery of the highway and transport service.

The National Highways and Transport Public Satisfaction Survey collect's feedback from the public on their satisfaction with Highway and Transport Services in the West Sussex County Council area.

To be signed by an Executive Director or Director to confirm that they have read and approved the content.

Name

Matt Davey
(Matt Davey)

Date

December 2020

Your position

Director of Highways and Transport