



# Highways and Transport Asset Management Strategy

December 2024



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## Purpose of this strategy:

As a Highway Authority, we have a duty of care to maintain the safety and accessibility of highway infrastructure that is kept at public expense. As stewards and custodians of the highway infrastructure assets, in accordance with the Highways Act 1980, we must demonstrate that we have provided adequate provision for their upkeep and safety as can be reasonably expected. We shall maintain the highway infrastructure assets with consideration to whole life costs, associated risks and alignment with our corporate objectives. This strategy sets out how we will deliver a service level against the Council's key priorities set out in our Organisational Strategy and Highways & Transport's role in helping deliver the Community Vision for Surrey in 2030.

## Foreword

Managing a highway network the size of Surrey is complex and challenging. As Highway Authority and Lead Local Flood Authority, we are responsible for assets with a gross replacement cost of £10 billion (excluding land), including over 3,000 miles of roads, 1,800 bridges and structures and 3,520 miles of pavement. Most of the assets we look after are obvious to users (roads, pavements, cycle facilities, bridges, tunnels, street lights and so on). However, we also manage assets that are less visible, such as embankments and safety barriers. Few of our assets are in an 'as new' state and with a limited budget we must prioritise our work to achieve best value.

The network is heavily trafficked reflecting Surrey's high economic output, used daily by most of the travelling public for commuting, business, social and leisure activities. At a local level it also helps to shape the character and quality of the environment. The successful management of our highway infrastructure therefore plays a vital role in delivering the broader outcomes set out in the Council's overarching goals.

Our response to this has been to develop a place-based approach and a strong focus on partnerships – particularly with the districts, boroughs and parishes. It has the needs of residents and users at its heart, to align everything we do. It sets out our priorities, how we will drive continuous improvement, maximise our opportunities and ensure we deliver the Council's overarching ambitions for people and place.



*Figure 3: Owen Jenkins,  
Executive Director of  
Highways, Infrastructure  
and Planning*



*Figure 3: Matt Furniss,  
Cabinet Member for  
Highways, Transport and  
Economic Growth*



*Figure 3: Lucy Monie  
Director of  
Highways and Transport*

# Asset Management Policy

## Policy

The highway asset is the most valuable asset under our control and is crucial to facilitate safe movement, which enables Surrey, as part of the South East, to be one of the largest net contributors to the UK economy outside of London. We have a key role to play in meeting the strategic goals set out in our corporate strategy. We will therefore ensure that we are supporting the Council's overarching aims, as detailed below. We will continually review our progress in this and take actions through our review mechanisms to identify improvement initiatives where necessary.

This strategy supports [Surrey's Community Vision](#), [Surrey's Local Transport Plan](#) and [Surrey's Climate Change Strategy](#).

Our network is relied upon by thousands of people and businesses every day. Our service supports the people of Surrey by making streets safe and reliable, offering more travel choices, making them sustainable and providing residents with access to schools, health services, care, retail, businesses and recreation. The condition of the highways can have a direct impact on people's ability to live independently and on the choices people make in terms of moving around the county.

The highways and transport infrastructure we build and maintain provides the foundation of a strong economy in Surrey, creates routes into businesses, jobs for residents and access to homes and communities where people want to live. Improving Surrey's highway network is one of the Council's key objectives in contributing to the local economy. This includes capital investment in new schemes, as well as a more network-oriented approach to asset management. We aim to deliver value today whilst planning and investing for the future.

Residents are at the heart of how services are designed and delivered; with appropriate influence, control and choice on issues that are important to them. Our professional service provides high quality, innovative solutions that ensure Surrey residents get value from the network now and in the future. We aim to work closely with partners to deliver the best outcomes for our residents, . We will continue to utilise new technologies to improve the way services are delivered and communicated.

### **Supporting Surrey's Climate Change Strategy**

Highway maintenance plays a key role in supporting Surrey's environmental ambition. We strive to reduce the environmental impact of maintenance where possible, aiming to support delivery of Surrey's Transport Plan and contributing to Surrey's [carbon neutral pathway](#).

# Introduction

## Introduction to Asset Management Strategy

An Asset Management Strategy sets out an informed and considered approach to the maintenance and future investment decisions for all infrastructure we have responsibility for within the highway boundary.

Surrey's aim is to consider the needs and manage the expectations of our stakeholders. We will consider optimal allocation of resources and operational delivery required to achieve expectations over the asset lifecycle.

This strategy will outline and endorse the commitment to asset management principles required to deliver our strategic goals and the key improvement activities that need to take place to enable this.

## Asset Management Objectives

Surrey County Council's Vision for Surrey in 2030 sets out our vision for people and places.

- Our ambitions for people are;
  - ❖ Children and young people are safe and feel safe and confident
  - ❖ Everyone benefits from education, skills and employment opportunities that help them succeed in life
  - ❖ Everyone lives healthy, active and fulfilling lives, and makes good choices about their wellbeing
  - ❖ Everyone gets the health and social care support and information they need at the right time and place
  - ❖ Communities are welcoming and supportive, especially of those most in need, and people feel able to contribute to community life
- Our ambitions for our place are;
  - ❖ Residents live in clean, safe and green communities, where people and organisations embrace their environmental responsibilities
  - ❖ Journeys across the county are easier, more predictable and safer
  - ❖ Everyone has a place they can call home, with appropriate housing for all
  - ❖ Businesses in Surrey thrive
  - ❖ Well-connected communities, with effective infrastructure, that grow sustainably

This vision needs to be delivered against the backdrop of increasing demand and a challenging financial outlook.

### ▣ **Our Statutory Obligations and National Good Practice**

We develop our road & transport policies and plans to meet our statutory obligations. [Well-managed Highways Infrastructure: A Code of Practice](#) describes a number of legal requirements and Surrey has endorsed its use. This includes ensuring, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage

along Surrey's highway is maintained in accordance with Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980. In addition to, the Traffic Management Act 2004 requirement to facilitate and secure efficient movement of traffic along our highway network.

In alignment with the [Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Guidance](#) document published by the UK Roads Liaison Group (UKRLG) and the Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme (HMEP) in 2013, our approach brings together a range of factors that influence asset management priorities.

Further information and links to policies and documents can be found using the [Roads & Transport web page](#).

### ▣ **Desired outcomes**

The desired outcome of an asset management approach is to maximise value for money, ensuring informed investment decisions can be made, but also to manage risk and maintain a highway environment that is safe and secure and accessible for our customers, and identify benefits from efficiencies. We will achieve our aim through effective record making and retention, monitoring outcomes, including the longevity of completed works. This provides us with real world performance data to better inform decision makers.

### ▣ **Timescale / Process**

Condition data and scheme construction records are recorded throughout the year so that we understand the condition of our assets. We use this data to understand how our assets are performing and produce deterioration models that forecast how the overall network condition will change based on different funding scenarios and treatment types. This modelling is used to inform budget setting conversations and helps us understand the impact of funding decisions.

How we prioritise our capital programmes is detailed in our [Capital Prioritisation Criteria Policy](#).

For each asset we identify a 5-year provisional forward programme of potential schemes. We first established the Horizon programme in 2013. This was a success and we have since developed a second version with 5-year rolling scheme indication called Horizon 2 – more information can be found on the Surrey website [here](#)

Ahead of each new financial year, annual programmes are confirmed and published with additional [Schemes for Consideration](#) highlighted to provide a forward view of future planned schemes. Identifying these provisional programmes 5 years in advance helps improve communication between stakeholders and co-ordination of different work types. While this transparency benefits the public, it should be noted that programmes may be subject to change at any time if there are road space or coordination issues, or due to re-prioritisation of other works, or unexpected cost increases of other schemes.

We also need to ensure that what we do is aligned with the Council's Vision and delivering the broader outcomes contained within it. Highways and Transport uses a Performance Framework to identify how each activity contributes to the Council's Vision and measure delivery against them. This is explained further in the [section below](#).

## □ The Case for Asset Management

When we talk about highway assets, we are most commonly referring to the roads, pavements, cycle facilities, bridges, traffic signals and streetlights<sup>1</sup> that you can see as you move around Surrey. We also manage several assets that are less visible to users, although they still play a very important role in the efficient operation of the highway network. These assets include embankments, safety barriers, and drainage. If the condition of any of these assets deteriorates significantly there will be a significant impact to the network. There are a number of smaller assets that we also focus on, for instance traffic signs and road markings.

Asset Management helps us to predict when each asset will deteriorate, and to identify when to intervene with lower cost preventative maintenance that will reduce lifetime costs, or alternatively when to replace the asset. Lifecycle planning tools for each asset are one of the mechanisms we use to achieve this.

# Asset Management Framework / Relationship to other documents

In accordance with the guidance stated above, we have aligned our strategy to key documentation within the organisation to ensure that not only are we aligned to the corporate vision and strategic goals, but that the planning and enablers required are in place and operating effectively. The figure below identifies these key elements and how they are aligned with one another.

[The Community Vision for Surrey in 2030](#) sets the direction and context of the organisation and defines the Council's priorities. Our Asset Strategy helps to deliver the following ambitions:

- Well connected communities, with effective infrastructure, that grow sustainably.
- Journeys across the county are easier, more predictable and safer.
- Businesses in Surrey thrive.
- Residents live in clean, safe and green communities, where people and organisations embrace their environmental responsibilities.
- Everyone lives healthy, active and fulfilling lives, and makes good choices about their wellbeing.
- Children and young people are safe and feel safe and confident.

Further to the Community Vision, Surrey County Council have an ultimate ambition – that no one is left behind. This means helping those who need us most, and improving quality of life for everyone. We aim to contribute to this ambition by how we manage our highways.

The asset management strategy supports the delivery of our programmes of planned, routine and reactive maintenance and the delivery of our Local Transport Plan in terms of the management of highway assets. They set out our approach to asset management, performance, data and lifecycle planning.

The asset management strategy is supported by a delivery plan that captures and prioritises improvement workstreams and is owned by the Asset Planning Team Manager.

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<sup>1</sup> street lights have not been modelled as part of this strategy as they are managed by Milestone by way of a private finance initiative (PFI)

# Context

## About Surrey

### ▣ **Asset value, expenditure and backlog**

Since 2013 Surrey County Council has carried out an annual valuation of our highway infrastructure assets based on the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice, using the calculations developed by the Highways Asset Management Financial Information Group (HAMFIG). Using this methodology, the Gross Value and Replacement Cost based on current condition for Surrey's assets are calculated. Along with deterioration models, this helps us to determine the funding levels required to meet agreed service levels.

## Future Opportunities and Demands

### ▣ **Road Marking Asset Management**

In 2024 Surrey Highways procured new road marking condition and retro-reflectivity survey equipment which will be used to routinely capture road marking information and enable a move to an evidence based maintenance approach.

### ▣ **Vegetation Asset Management**

Substantial work has been done supporting the Highway Maintenance team in the transfer of grass cutting and vegetation maintenance from the Districts and Boroughs to the council. A new asset data management system has been built including new data structures, works management tools, reporting maps and dashboards

### ▣ **Drainage Asset Management**

Work is ongoing through the Flooding and Drainage Operations Group to improve drainage inventory data structure, update and integration with contractor maintenance systems

### ▣ **Changes in use patterns e.g. increased cycling**

Surrey's highways are used daily by much of the travelling public for commuting, business, social and leisure activities. How we prioritise our investment must take our users' needs into account. Our Transport Studies Team monitors the changing use of our network by each user group. This data, along with records managed by our Road Safety and Insurance Teams, is used to understand the changing use of the network by all types of users, including vulnerable users.

### ▣ **Cycle Facilities and Active Travel**

[Cycle facilities](#) are found on roads and pavements, as well as off road. Several teams across Highways and Transport have responsibilities for the planning and management of cycle facilities. For example, the Transport Policy Team plan new cycle facilities with the input from relevant stakeholders during the development of local cycling and walking infrastructure plans

while our Highway Safety Inspection Team undertake safety inspections of the highway, the frequency of which is determined by The Highway Hierarchy Definition Policy. [The Hierarchy Policy](#) defines how important we think each road, footway or cycleway is based on usage and other factors. Cycle Facility maintenance works can be carried out by several teams and budgets across the service. A full inventory and condition survey has been undertaken of all Surrey's cycle network using image recognition cameras. Work is ongoing with stakeholders across the service to make best use of this data and produce a cycle hierarchy.

Following review of [LTN 1/20](#) and [Gear Change](#) by the Department for Transport a review of cycling and Active Travel in Surrey has been undertaken and the [Active travel and personal mobility policy area](#) is included Surrey's latest [Local Transport Plan](#) (LTP4).

### □ **New technology, information sources, Innovation**

The ever-changing technological landscape means that new technologies are always emerging. These will be monitored, tested and implemented where possible to help enable service enhancements and cost reduction. Examples outlined in Surrey's Digital Business Case include:

- Establish cross-cutting digital solutions for staff, residents, and partners
- Implement technical solutions identified and co-designed with services which support the realisation of benefits detailed in other transformation business cases
- Exploit opportunities to join-up data, scale solutions and improve sustainability of services
- Develop the capabilities and dimensions of a digital council;
- Use of Online/web, automation/Artificial Intelligence/Robotics, Information and insights from data and analytics, Tech/app enabled new business, Tech-enabled services for residents, Social media platforms and content

Surrey is in a rare position of having our own Highway Materials Laboratory who work collaboratively with external & internal partners to facilitate the trial of new innovations. We are seeking to maximise various industry related opportunities with partners and will provide enablers when procuring works or services to allow the development of technologies such as AI (Artificial Intelligence).

Under the Innovation Development and Improvement Strategy there are four innovation groups led by Highways and Transport. Membership includes other council and contractor colleagues, and the groups have the following aims:

- Driving through value
- Making the right asset investment decisions
- Improving safety and efficiency through better use of technology, materials and processes

The groups aim to identify best practice, innovation and opportunities and report to the Development and Improvement Board chaired by the Assistant Director Highways (Network & Asset Management) for scrutiny, assessment and approval of ideas. The groups are as follows:

- Sustainability Working Group
- Materials and Operational Delivery Forum
- Highways Future Technology Forum
- Systems and Data Forum



# How is the service funded?

## □ DfT funding mechanisms

Maintenance and improvements to our highway assets are funded from our capital budget, which is largely made up of two grants from central government – the [Maintenance Block Grant](#) and the Integrated Transport Grant. The current method of allocating the maintenance block grant has resulted in more certainty over the funding we can expect to receive over the course of the parliament however the grant alone is not enough to halt the deterioration of all our highway network assets.

The government has introduced the [Local Highways Maintenance Incentive Fund](#) element to the grant which directly links our funding to the ability to demonstrate sound asset management. Highway Authorities are ranked as Band 1, Band 2 or Band 3, with Band 1 being those judged to be the worst performing. Surrey have achieved Band 3 status each year since 2017 and therefore have maximised the grant funding available.

## □ Revenue versus capital

By having a clear understanding of the forecast asset deterioration, we can assess how different levels of funding can impact on this condition forecast. Some assets will require significantly greater investment to improve their condition than others. The balance between capital investment (work that provides long term maintenance/improvement e.g. resurfacing a road) and ongoing revenue investment (shorter term improvement e.g. cleaning gullies) must also be understood.

By providing sufficient capital investment the longer-term revenue requirement is likely to be reduced, potentially reducing the whole life cost of the asset. Conversely, if the asset is deteriorating but does not receive capital investment, it is more likely that ongoing revenue costs will be greater, leading to a potentially increased whole life asset cost.

We must ensure that we balance the revenue and capital spend to ensure we are delivering the best value for the residents of Surrey. If capital investment is not supported by adequate ongoing revenue spend then the initial investment value may be reduced. Similarly, if capital investment is too low this can result in more revenue maintenance works and contribute to increased disruption and traffic on the network. It is important to understand in managing the asset network as a whole, that budget constraints limit what can be spent across the entire network. Invariably, when funding is required to increase in one area it must reduce elsewhere to make up for this. By having a clear view of what level of service is required of each asset we can make more informed views on how best to allocate funding across the network.

## □ Other funding

While the overall financial position of Surrey County Council means that we have to be prudent with our budget setting, the Council recognises the key role that Highways have in terms of connecting people and places and therefore have committed funding in addition to central government capital grants. In addition we look to supplement our funds through bidding for additional [funding](#) when opportunities are available.

We also consider wider priorities set by national and local bodies. Active Travel England, National Highways, Homes England also present opportunities for significant sources of capital

funding. Their priorities reflect the national & regional policies set by Transport for the South East, Department for Transport, Department for Levelling up, Housing & Communities. It is important that, where appropriate, we align ourselves with these priorities, ensuring that we act at the forefront of best practice.

## How are we organised?

### ▣ **Leadership – including Asset Management governance and processes**

In support of our core asset management activities, we undertake a number of internal activities to enable our Asset Management Team to deliver effectively. In using the [Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Guidance](#) document published by the UK Roads Liaison Group (UKRLG) and the Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme (HMEP) we have identified a number of opportunities for improvement and will also utilise standards set out in [ISO 55000](#), which identifies key principles to consider in implementing an effective approach to asset management.

Our projects and initiatives to deliver this are focused on the following outcomes:

- ❖ Creating clear lines of decision making and delegated responsibilities
- ❖ Having a clear and agreed plan in place, with changes justified through a controlled process
- ❖ Measuring performance against a set of benefits and monitoring using detailed and regular PIs (Performance Indicators)
- ❖ Ensuring the asset management team is linked up effectively to internal and external stakeholders
- ❖ Maximising utility gained from the systems across the organisation

## How is the service delivered?

### ▣ **Review and improvement of delivery arrangements**

In April 2022 Surrey Highways entered into a new Term Maintenance Contract with Ringway. This contract has the potential to last for up to 21 years and therefore provides opportunities for the council to work with Ringway to develop and improve service delivery as part of a long-term relationship. Although the partnership is still in its early days, improvements to our joint ability to deliver Innovation, Social Value and Sustainability are already being identified.

Delivery of our service is continually monitored and improved by the asset and delivery teams in partnership with our contractors. Performance Boards are held monthly to monitor contract performance under the following titles:

- ❖ Making the Network Safe
- ❖ Keeping the Network in Good Condition
- ❖ Improving Network Availability
- ❖ Winter Service
- ❖ Resident Engagement

44 contract PI (Performance Indicators) are reported each month by the performance boards. These boards scrutinise the PI results to ensure that each service is being delivered as it should

be. The boards also carry out financial monitoring each month to identify any in-year risks to spend, as well as updating Early Warning and Programme Risk Registers to identify risks requiring escalation through the governance structure. Failures are discussed and analysed, and remediation plans are put in place and monitored where identified. Failures over time are recorded and tracked to help identify any ongoing trends that need addressing. These scrutiny boards play a key role not only in monitoring PIs but also planning and implementing improvements to the systems and processes used to deliver the service.

Each board produces a summary report each month that is reviewed by the Monthly Contract Review (MCR) Board.

The Performance Framework measures the performance of each activity that Highways & Transport undertake. It categorises how each activity supports the Council's corporate objectives. Each team is responsible for reporting data against metrics assigned to them at either quarterly, 6 monthly or annual frequency. The results of these metrics are scrutinised by the Service Performance Board each quarter. Performance is scrutinised, and plans put in place should any area of the service be falling below the intended performance.

# Communication and Engagement?

## □ How do we consider stakeholder needs?

Public opinion of our assets is shaped by the experience they provide to residents, communities and businesses. It is important to strike a balance between meeting customer needs and applying good engineering principles to achieve best value and maximise the life of Surrey's assets.

Significant work is ongoing to improve visibility of information for residents and network users through public online maps and dashboard reporting tools – with a focus on accessing information from the [Roads & Transport webpage](#). These tools are used to contribute to, and complement, communications with the public. Improvements in data management, automation and integration between systems is enabling information to be provided to the public more frequently, reliably, and consistently and requiring less officer time.

The 2016 15-year Asset Strategy undertook extensive engagement with Council Members, public and private sector partners and Surrey residents to understand their respective priorities. This helped us decide how to best allocate our asset maintenance budget and identify where there are opportunities to improve outcomes for Surrey.

In 2019/20 a number of business cases were taken to the SCC Capital Governance Programme Panel (CPP) recommending increased capital funding for highway assets based on deterioration modelling and scenario testing work undertaken. These demonstrated how increased funding would provide better value for money, improve network user satisfaction and a reduction in risk. Increased funding was approved as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Colleagues are engaged with in the following ways:

- Asset stakeholders are engaged with through improvement groups
- Lunchtime learning seminars are held to share work from across the service
- Groups such as the Transformation Timetable with membership from across the contractor and council teams identifies, prioritises and progresses improvement workstreams

## ▣ **Engagement and feedback**

National Highways and Transport Public Satisfaction Survey (NHT) data is invaluable in identifying the preferences of customers, with analysis conducted to identify key drivers for overall levels of satisfaction with the Highways network. The survey is conducted across residents of several councils on an annual basis. We recognise the value of this feedback and the ability to understand how we are performing relative to others. The results provide indicative themes of where the council is making a positive impact and where further work is required. Surrey's overall satisfaction levels with regards to highway maintenance and condition issues within the survey are generally below the national average and have shown a decrease since the end of Horizon 1 following a period of improvement during Horizon 1. This could be seen to demonstrate that while our overall strategy may be ensuring that we are spending the funding levels we have in the most appropriate way, the levels of funding available are not providing the level of investment that our customers would like.

Highways maintenance comes out as a clear priority amongst the survey respondents of the latest survey, with cycle routes/lanes as an area in which respondents had seen positive improvements since the last survey.

## ▣ **Role of elected members**

We regularly engage with our Cabinet Members and other members through attendance at Select Committees and Member Reference Groups allowing their views to act as another factor in shaping our strategy.

It is important to balance all sources of information as well as using empirical data such as condition data and knowledge of deterioration patterns in order to make the most appropriate decisions for the highway network.

## ▣ **How this informs setting service level targets and decision making**

Putting the needs of service users first is central to asset management. In practice, this means prioritising our efforts based on those activities that provide the greatest value to Surrey residents. In developing Surrey's Highways Maintenance Asset Management Strategy, we have sought to engage with as wide an audience as possible and obtain information from a range of sources in order to better understand how highways assets contribute to achieving better outcomes for Surrey.

These sources include:

- ❖ Customer insight and resident satisfaction surveys undertaken by Surrey County Council – including customer contact centre trends
- ❖ Member's feedback on local priorities
- ❖ Feedback from the Stakeholder Engagement and Operational Teams
- ❖ National Policy and Priorities from partners such as the Department for Transport and National Highways
- ❖ Regional Priorities set out by District and Borough Councils, Local Enterprise Partnerships and neighbouring County Councils
- ❖ National and Regional highways surveys (e.g. NHT)
- ❖ Surrey County Council's Corporate Vision

## How do we manage risk?

We have adopted a risk-based approach to all aspects of highway asset management as recommended in Well-managed Highways Infrastructure: A Code of Practice (October 2016). Our method requires the gathering and processing of evidence to inform further investigation when quantifying risk. If sufficient data does not exist to inform decision making, then data collection may be put in place or data procured if considered necessary.

We have developed and maintain risk registers at a Corporate, Directorate and Service Level as well as at an operational and project level. These risk registers are maintained and recorded on our Information Management System (IMS) with regular monitoring and reviews.

In addition, our asset modelling is conducted by the Asset Owners who consider short- and medium-term risks or known legislative changes and costs within their deterioration calculations, as well as the benefits of moving to new technology sooner.

Operational risks to the service are managed through the Business Continuity Plan (BCP). The Winter Service Policy and Severe Weather Plan mitigate the risk from severe weather and set out what the service will do in these circumstances.

## Considering the environment And Sustainability

In line with the Surrey Community Vision 2030, reducing the environmental impact of highway works and striving for sustainability is an important focus of the service. A key tool helping with this is our Sustainability Working Group. The Group reports to Innovation Board between Surrey & our main contractor Ringway and has members from both organisations. The Group's plan identifies and addresses actions under the following 10 work areas and targets:

<b>Procurement &amp; Local Economy:</b> Supporting local economies and raise the sustainability profile	<b>Sustainable Water:</b> 10% reduction in water consumed per £100k of revenue from a 2015 baseline
<b>Sustainable Materials:</b> Improve the efficiency of the materials we use – measured by the cost of the materials as a % of turnover	<b>Social Value &amp; Community:</b> 10% additional social value as a percentage of turnover
<b>Health Safety &amp; Wellbeing:</b> Understand and ensure the wellbeing of all employees. Follow the 6 principles of safety.	<b>Equality Diversity &amp; Inclusion:</b> We recognise and actively encourage the value of a diverse and inclusive workplace where people can bring their whole self to work
<b>Sustainable Transport:</b> Promote the use of green travel options and reduce impacts of employee travel	<b>Zero Carbon:</b> Reduce our carbon emissions by 5% per annum, and reduce the cost of energy in line with the 30 by 30 strategy

<p><b>Landscape &amp; Biodiversity:</b> Deliver and report on as many BIG biodiversity challenges as possible. Environmental incidents: 20% reduction in year on year AEIR rate</p>	<p><b>Zero waste:</b> Reduce the direct cost of waste as a % of our turnover</p>
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The group is following through many actions and workstreams, the following are most significant from an Asset Management perspective:

- Carbon production assessment of each activity within the service to identify highest impact and target reduction efforts. SCC are working with the [Future Highway Research Group](#) (FHRG) developing a carbon analyser tool to measure the carbon output of all highway maintenance activities.
- The trial and introduction a new method of collecting road condition and asset data using image recognition software using the Vaisala RoadAI system
- The trial and introduction of Route Report Cameras onto Highway Safety Inspection vehicles to aid the automatic detection and classification of potholes on driven routes.
- A Scheme sustainability assessment tool has been designed to provide visibility of the carbon cost of schemes by building up the individual carbon cost of the proposed materials, waste, haulage and lifecycle to give a baseline carbon cost of a scheme.
- Trials of materials with potential to reduce environmental impact, for example: Road marking materials that use 75% less thermoplastic, Warm mix asphalt, road surface preservatives
- LED street light roll out
- LED Traffic Signal conversion

At a scheme level, consideration to the environment is achieved using Environmental Impact Assessments as part of scheme project management. The environmental impact of works undertaken on each asset type is considered and will be captured in the Asset Summaries which are owned by the asset leads. The Asset stakeholder groups provide an opportunity to engage in a collaborative process to review opportunities and agree policies & standards for routine activities.

The effects of climate change on our highway assets have already been seen during several wet and windy weather events in recent years. Our longer-term approach to highway asset management will consider what effect climate change may have on investment priorities and lifecycle costs of our highway assets.

Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessments will deliver spatial GIS layers depicting the current and future climate risk and vulnerability (across flood risk, heat risk, fire, and water security) for use in decision-making across the SCC organisation, and other partners. This will be a key informant for a variety of our services – including planning and designing infrastructure. The intention is that this forms part of the evidence base for us shifting from being reactive to climate impacts towards planning, preparing and designing for them upfront.

# Our Asset Management Process

## Asset Management process overview – timescales, annual cycle (diagram)

One of the key drivers to the successful delivery of the business plan is the service wide embedding of our Asset Management Strategy. Surrey was one of the first authorities to develop an Asset Management Plan in 2005 (STAMP) and it is refreshed every 2 years. This strategy is aligned with best practice set out in the [Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Guidance](#) published by the UK Roads Liaison Group (UKRLG) and the Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme (HMEP), including;

- ❖ Consulting with members and users to determine their priorities
- ❖ Continuing with the completion of a physical network inventory and assessment of current condition
- ❖ Undertaking depreciation modelling of all our assets over a 15-year period
- ❖ Assessing the impact of different states of condition of our assets on the Council's key priorities

## How do we plan investment?

### ▣ Forward work programme – short, medium and long term

We already have a proven track record of the application of sound asset management principles delivering value for money. In 2012 17% of Surrey's road network needed structural repair. We developed the innovative Horizon programme to reduce the length of the network in need of structural repair to 12% over 5 years by resurfacing around 10% of the worst condition roads. At the time that Horizon was conceived, annual programmes of work were the norm in the highways industry; working in partnership with our Highways contractor we recognised the benefits that a long-term programme of works would bring. For example, the potential for contractors to give discounts due to long term continuity of works and ability to develop specialist programmes of work, improved short and long term co-ordination opportunities and improved provision of information to the public. Horizon 1 delivered its critical success factors and Horizon 2 (which began in 2017) continued this success and has so far improved the length of the network in need of structural repair to just 10% by 2022. Whilst applying the same successful procurement principles of Horizon 1, Horizon 2 now incorporates a rolling 5-year programme in which we also consider different investment strategies and include longer term 5-year programmes for other key assets such as bridges, traffic signals and pavements to provide a more holistic approach, allow better coordination and balance need across the network. As always, what we are able to achieve is of course dependent on the level of funding that is available and the cost of resources.

### ▣ Service level targets

Service levels will be determined through monitoring and reacting to feedback from all stakeholders and through performance data for each asset.

## □ Funding and Budget allocation

The strategy is modelled over a 15-year period, but we recognise that things can change over time; we could get a greater or lesser budget share than anticipated from the DfT Maintenance Grant or council priorities could change.

The modelling we carry out assumes normal deterioration patterns, and no allowance has currently been made for inflation or any significant damage caused by severe weather events. In the event of a severe weather event, if central government and/or the council do not provide additional funds, the programmes of work described in this plan will be suspended to deal with any unforeseen damage to the network.

We review our budgets annually in line with corporate budget setting arrangements and refresh our modelling every 5 years in line with our strategic business plan review timetable. The level of funding received will determine whether a steady state, managed decline or improvement strategy will be pursued for each asset.

# How do we decide how, where and when to do maintenance?

## □ Includes planned, cyclic and reactive maintenance

In delivering our strategy, we have developed a series of documents that set out how we will allocate funding to target the areas that require the most focus. The documents discussed below support the achievement of this objective and are updated annually to ensure we are adapting to ongoing changes in the condition of our network and the priorities of users.

**Scheme Identification** To ensure capital funds are spent in the most effective way, robust systems for scheme identification and assessment are required. The [Capital Prioritisation Policy](#) is part of the Asset Management Framework (AMF) and sets out the criteria used for scheme selection. We decide how to utilise the allocated budget using this approach to prioritisation, ensuring that we remain focused on delivering the goals and objectives set out in this strategy. Schemes are identified using standardised survey data and then prioritised using a range of data sources that inform the following considerations:

- Risk to the public - this is calculated using data such as past insurance claims, skidding accidents, the number of small repairs carried out. Consideration is given to other issues such as flooding.
- Condition of the asset - this includes an engineer's assessment
- Network priority – Based on the Highway Hierarchy Definition Policy which is used for prioritisation. Greater priority is given to roads and footways with the greatest usage or need.

As well as schemes identified from survey data, the Asset Planning Team also receive scheme suggestions via enquiries from Councillors and members of the public. These schemes are assessed by an engineer and prioritised.

**Annual Programmes** Surrey's major maintenance is planned in advance and several programmes have been devised to support our strategic aims to maintain our highways assets.

Our annual programme sets out all planned work for the year ahead and provides a baseline against which we can periodically assess performance to ensure we are delivering as required. We have made our annual programmes available on a borough-by-borough basis on the [Horizon web page](#).

**Forward Programmes** Forward programmes look to build greater resilience into the network, providing a preventative approach to highways asset maintenance. We have taken an innovative approach to plan further in advance than just for the year ahead, setting out the schemes we are currently considering in a provisional programme across the next five years. This ensures that we are proactive in our approach and can make informed decisions for the future. Of course, the programme will be subject to change dependent on how far we are achieving our goals and being flexible is a key element in delivering our strategy.

## ▣ **Service Wide Alignment**

The Asset Strategy links to high level policies and plans as shown in the Asset Management Framework

The Highways Infrastructure and Planning Directorate IT & GIS Data Strategies are key enablers to help improve service wide alignment. The Strategy includes:

- IT Systems – Ensuring that all systems and applications are fit for purpose
- Data Strategy – Managing our data as an asset to enable directorate to achieve its strategic ambitions through improved decision making
- Reporting
- Training & Competency
- Networks & Forums
- Innovation

A key component of the Directorate IT Strategy is the System's Strategy which aims to support all workstreams through integrated management of asset inventory, condition and works data and provides it to necessary stakeholders in a way that enables data analysis, access, reporting and decision making. In 2022 SCC procured the Brightly Confirm Asset Management System which is a key component to deliver this strategy.

The SCC Corporate GIS Framework enables integration of data from all systems and provision of data to all stakeholders. Continuous evaluation and improvements are being made supported by feedback from multiple stakeholder groups such as the Performance Boards, Monthly Contract Review and Transformation Timetable including SCC Highway and Ringway colleagues.

The above IT systems help to align our strategy for individual assets with objectives and vision within statutory documents such as the [Local Transport Plan](#) (LTP) and the strategies and plans that form part of it.

Where possible the Asset Strategy will contribute to corporate objectives such as the [Climate Change Strategy](#) and target to be carbon-neutral by 2050. Some of Highways & Transport contributions towards reducing carbon are outlined in the [Considering the Environment section above](#). The Asset Strategy aims to co-ordinate with the LTP and, where appropriate, support in delivering its key outcome objectives:

- ❖ Enabling a greener future;
- ❖ Growing a sustainable economy, so that everyone can benefit;
- ❖ Empowering communities;
- ❖ Tackling health inequality.

The LTP4 marks a significant change for transport in Surrey, providing an opportunity to concentrate our transport policy into one vision. The vision sets out our ambitions for the transport system in Surrey to 2032 and beyond.

Work is continuing reviewing highway asset maintenance activities to support and align with the objectives of LTP4. Following consultation with SCC officers, Cabinet Members and a select committee member reference group, work is focussed on the following areas:

- A review of our network hierarchies and how they support the Sustainable Travel Hierarchy, specifically around Active Travel, Public Transport, Vulnerable Users and Accessibility. The footway hierarchy has been updated in 2025 with further work underway reviewing our cycle hierarchy.
- Work is in progress to improve bus route data availability and use in works planning and sharing with the public
- Analysis and review of data (Claims, Accidents, Defects, Condition Data) to understand where risks are on our network by type, location and user type. Consideration will be given to whether our maintenance addresses these satisfactorily, and investigation into whether adjusting our maintenance is warranted based on the risk analysis results.
- Production of a cycle hierarchy similar to our existing carriageway and footway hierarchies
- We will review our approach to treating cycle and footway routes to prevent ice forming
- We will review how our safety inspection regime mitigates risk for cyclists and our ongoing data capture regime in relation to cyclists
- With the implementation of the Brightly Confirm Asset Management System in 2023, we will improve management of scheme data to ensure integration between work types and history of works undertaken and to provide improved updates to members and the public.

### □ **Cross-Asset Alignment and Co-ordination**

Co-ordination of works programmes internally and with other organisations is a key focus of Surrey Highways & Transport. Cross-service groups of asset stakeholders discuss and plan opportunities to improve how asset types are managed. Asset summary documents capture how each asset is managed. Mapping and data management systems are used to share information between internal SCC teams and groups such as TIAN (Transport Infrastructure Alignment Network) to facilitate early co-ordination and planning of works and maximise opportunity for co-ordination and deliver value for money and reduced disruption.

## ▣ **Inspections/survey and other condition and performance data**

As the authority responsible for the condition of Surrey's Highways network, our primary duty is to protect users of our network, by keeping the network safe and ensuring appropriate protections are in place to reduce the risk of harm. This can mean conducting proactive work that may not be seen as a priority to residents in order to reduce risk and costs.

Some assets are more visible than others. For example, people tend to notice defects in the highways more regularly than safety barriers or drainage. Drainage defects only become apparent when there is a situation requiring their efficient operation. However, this does not mean that they should be deprioritised. It is important that all assets meet, at the very minimum, statutory safety conditions.

To understand how much work we need to do to maintain Surrey's assets requires a good understanding of the current condition and how this is expected to change over the short, medium and longer term. We have used a wide range of asset condition modelling tools to analyse and understand what the demand will look like for each asset class.

As explained in the '[New technology, information sources, Innovation](#)' section above, we regularly review emerging technologies and best practice to consider whether the surveys and work types that we undertake are best value for money.

Two trials started in 2020 with suppliers of software that uses image recognition and machine learning to identify safety and condition defects. These will make collection of data quicker, more consistent, and reliable and should free up officer time to focus on analysis of issues rather than collection of data. This should provide better value for money.

The 1<sup>st</sup> went into production in 2023, replacing and increasing the frequency of condition data on our lower hierarchy unclassified roads, and improving the collection of asset data across the county. (currently for signs & road markings but will include safety barriers & ironwork in the near future)

The 2<sup>nd</sup> is being implemented during 2025 to aid the Highway Safety Inspection process in the identification and prioritisation of pothole defects.

## ▣ **Risk-based hierarchies and resilient network**

In order to adopt a risk-based approach Surrey has defined its network hierarchy to inform priorities. Our policy for allocating hierarchy status and review has been approved by Cabinet. Many activities contribute to us maintaining a resilient network, for example:

- Our [network hierarchies](#) for roads and footways. A new cycle infrastructure hierarchy is being developed.
- Our salting routes which are directly informed by road hierarchies and other local factors. Salting regimes are prioritised into priority 1, priority 2 and a minimum level 'A Roads+' salting network which is made up of the minimum network priority roads to be treated in case all Priority 1 routes cannot be treated due to prevailing conditions or resource or salt shortages.
- Maintenance regimes for each asset type are informed by the hierarchy of the network they are situated on or impact (amongst other factors). Co-ordination of maintenance is also given consideration based on planned future maintenance of surrounding assets. Data about assets and works programmes is shared between stakeholders to help align decision making.

- Decision making during severe weather events such as flooding, snow, heat and wind is supported by up-to-date data about assets and activities on the Surrey network (both SCC and external data). Data is captured recording what happens during these events and is fed into learning and continuous improvement.
- Details made available to help decision making of Duty Managers during emergencies, and for use by others identifying but not limited to:
  - Bridges susceptible to flood damage,
  - Flood plans and temporary flood measures
  - Pumping stations
  - Roads liable to flooding,
  - Roads at risk of damage during hot weather,
  - Locations susceptible to fog
  - Slope hazard sites
  - Flood zones
  - National Highways diversion routes
  - Location of Variable Message Signs (VMS)
  - Locations of schools and emergency services
  - Emergency services preferred routes
  - Height and width restrictions.

### □ **Lifecycle analysis**

In order to ensure that we are spending the funding available for highways most efficiently, we carry out lifecycle modelling for all our key assets. This information is used alongside information we collect from stakeholders including county council members and the public, to propose budget strategies for the different assets to the County Council's Cabinet.

### □ **Prioritisation including cross-asset trade-offs, risk management and softer factors**

We use analysis of the priorities of highways service users alongside current and forecast condition of our assets and identified risks in order to determine what service levels Surrey Highways and Transport needs to provide.

To support our decision making, as previously described we engage with County Council Members, public and private sector partners and Surrey residents on their priorities. We use this analysis to identify which parts of the network require the most attention from a service user's perspective, the priority areas for further investment and the level of service that residents want from the network. All these things are essential in shaping the asset management strategy and funding plans.

The allocation of our asset maintenance budget is based on this analysis and on opportunities to improve outcomes for Surrey i.e. improving wellbeing or resident experience by effectively allocating our funding across the asset network.

In prioritising the funding applied to each asset we must also understand the impact different levels of funding will have on each asset. Some assets will only require a relatively small amount of funding to significantly improve their condition. Conversely, other assets may require significant amounts of investment to drive any tangible improvement in condition.

Modelling and 'What if' scenario testing helps us to prioritise where money is spent and get value for money, identifying where we are able to redistribute funding without having a significantly adverse effect on an asset type in order to improve condition in other areas.

# Performance Management Framework

## ▣ **Service Levels, performance measure and targets**

How we plan our maintenance work is a key element of our asset management strategy. To do this effectively we need to understand the varying needs and expectations of our residents and service users as these will reflect our service delivery standards. However, standards for highways assets will vary according to their use and the risks involved.

If, for example, the condition of well used pavements needs to improve to ensure safe passage and encourage sustainable transport for commuters, school children, leisure walkers; the allocation of funding to this asset will also need to increase, which will mean having to reduce spending elsewhere. By setting standards appropriate to the use of specific parts of the network we are better equipped to understand and meet the demand and user priorities for each asset type in the most efficient way.

## ▣ **Benchmarking and efficiency**

Surrey is committed to the development and implementation of good practice and benefits from lessons learnt at National, Regional and Local levels. Officers from Surrey County Council regularly contribute to and attend:

- ❖ National and regional conferences;
- ❖ The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Highways Asset Management Planning Network
- ❖ SEASIG (South East Area Service Improvement Group) Customer Service Group
- ❖ The South East 7 Alliance
- ❖ National Traffic Managers Forum
- ❖ Annual Local Authority Road Maintenance Survey
- ❖ Local Authority Bridges Groups

Furthermore, Surrey is committed to the sharing of knowledge and experiences in implementing asset management with other Highway Authorities across the Country. To this end, officers from Surrey present examples of good practice nationally at workshops and conferences and are active members of many knowledge sharing and improvement forums;

- ❖ UK Roads Board
- ❖ Road Condition Management Group (SCC Chair)
- ❖ Local Government Technical Advisors Group (SCC immediate past President)
- ❖ South East Authorities Bridges Group (SCC Chair)
- ❖ Local Council's Roads Innovation Group
- ❖ ADEPT Engineering and Soils and Materials Boards
- ❖ Client/Contractor/Supplier relationships, and on business change, including the development of a strategic peer review for highway authorities.
- ❖ Case study on Asset Data included in UKRLG Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Guidance
- ❖ South East Traffic Managers Group
- ❖ South East Permit Scheme Governance Board
- ❖ Research projects & Consultation such as LASR (local Authority Skid Resistance) project, development of PAS 2161:2024 the DfT Condition data standard and the 2025 review of the Code of Practice, Well Managed Highway Infrastructure.

## □ Annual Asset Management assessment and progress report

Using the baseline developed in our asset data, we will develop forecasts for future condition based on the level of investment provided. This will then be reviewed on a 5-yearly basis (or more regularly if there are significant changes to available budget levels) to assess any under- or overperformance for each asset against the needs of the users. Where this is the case, lessons learned will be gathered to understand why this has occurred and suggested activities to either improve the situation or maximise an opportunity with a view to reducing whole life costs of the asset.

This will enable future forecasting to be completed more effectively with a view to improving accuracy in the longer term. Where assets are shown to be consistently underperforming, more detailed diagnostics will be completed to understand why and to develop remedial activities specific to that asset. We will continue to work with partners to identify innovative solutions to these challenges, constantly seeking to increase the value to the residents of Surrey.

There will be monthly works scheduling progress meetings to review the delivery to plan and the updated condition forecasts will be reviewed at board level annually, where changes will be agreed.

# Asset Systems and Data Management

A clear Systems and Data Management Strategy is important for record keeping, analysis and decision making, and to help facilitate effective decision making across the service and council. Supported by good business processes, a good systems strategy will improve communication and collaboration while reduce silo working.

A new Highway Maintenance Contract started in April 2022. As described in the [Service Wide Alignment](#) section above this presented an opportunity to produce an updated IT Systems Strategy for Highways and Transport and ETI. This project was delivered by colleagues across ETI, IT and Procurement and resulted in the procurement of the new Confirm Asset Management System. The focus of the IT Strategy is as follows:

- Rationalisation of all systems and data management across the service with
- Having as few systems as possible, but as many as necessary in order not to compromise functionality
- A focus on integration and automation of processes
- Flexibility to incorporate and capitalise upon emerging technologies
- Improved communication and efficiency of data management
- Improved internal and public visibility of works and other information

A number of systems and technology innovations are being trialled as described in the [Inspections/survey and other condition and performance data](#) section above, as well as the [Considering the environment And Sustainability](#) section.

A further innovation workstream is pursuing use of sensors and Internet of Things connected devices. This project is looking into the following opportunities:

- Pothole Detection
- Road Temperature Sensors
- Live Traffic Reporting
- Road Condition Reporting
- Streetlight Dimming

# Continuous Improvement

## ▣ Management Reviews

We will continue to understand the user needs for highways to ensure the strategy is correctly focused, as well as remaining aligned to wider Council and corporate priorities. We will work to prioritise those activities understood to increase public satisfaction, maintain our customer focus and ensure that everything we do is aligned to the needs of highways users.

We will take an engaging approach to delivering our plans and updating the strategy, ensuring we take account of stakeholders views before making significant changes. The strategy will be reviewed every two years in line with best practice guidance. We will continue to integrate into the strategy information from the NHT survey, customer satisfaction surveys, the customer contact centre and other sources of engagement. By doing so the asset management strategy will remain relevant and aligned to the changing needs of Surrey. Progress will be published on our website and all users will be able to actively engage in the formation of the ongoing strategy.

## ▣ Performance monitoring, review and improvement of the Asset Management framework

The business plan for the service is underpinned by the H&T Service Performance Management Framework. This sets out a series of performance measures across all our activities which will be used to demonstrate that we are achieving the objectives of the business plan and delivering the Council's corporate goals. It will allow us to identify risks to service delivery and highlight opportunities.

Progress against the framework will be scrutinised on a regular basis with quarterly reporting to the Service Leadership Team. Implementing this framework is an ongoing process and we will continue to adapt our approach as we mature.

Included within the framework is a series of measures against the delivery of the asset management strategy. These will be used to monitor our progress against the delivery of the objectives set out in the strategy on a number of levels.

Sitting above the Highways & Transport Performance Framework is the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) Performance Framework which draws on some of the H&T PIs.