

# DRAFT Highway Asset Management Policy 2016



# DRAFT HIGHWAYS ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY



## Foreword

Bury Council recognizes the vital importance of the local highway network and the role that its maintenance and management plays in supporting the Council’s vision, purpose and values.

This Highway Asset Management Policy sets out how the Council will best manage the highway network whilst taking into account asset condition, users’ needs, local priorities, growth and financial pressures.

This policy document shows the high level approach that Bury will adopt in its stewardship of the highway network in order to deliver the maximum benefit to local communities and businesses within the constraints mentioned above.

## Asset Management Policy

The highway network is the most valuable asset under Bury’s control and is currently valued at around nearly £1bn. Consequently, long term investment in its management, development and maintenance is essential in order to provide a network that is safe, serviceable and sustainable.

### Safe

- Fulfilling our legal obligations

### Serviceable

- Ensure highways remain available for use
- Maintain agreed levels of reliability
- Maintain target conditions for main assets

### Sustainable

- Minimising costs over life of asset
- Maximise value to local communities and the economy
- Minimise impact on the environment

In order to achieve and meet these objectives, the Council will need to adopt an effective Asset Management regime that covers the full lifecycle of all its major asset types; carriageways, footways, highway structures and street lighting.

This will include but not be limited to;-

- defining service levels for the various assets (in consultation with stakeholders).
- adopting a life-cycle approach to planning asset investment and management decisions
- balancing competing needs across the highway network and selecting options that best meet desired outcomes
- monitoring, evaluating and, where required, improving service delivery
- continuously review our approach to asset management policies and practices

## Bury Council - Major Asset Types

The table below outlines the extent of the various assets that fall under the stewardship of Bury Council.

Asset Type	Quantity
Carriageways	660 km
Footways	1,200 km
Highway Structures	228 no.
Road Gullies	36,500 no.
Lighting Columns	19,000 no.
Public Rights of Way	310 km
Guardrail	15 km
Signs & Bollards	24,000 no.

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## Aligning Policies

It is vital that Bury Council's Highway Asset Management Policy is consistent with corporate priorities where ever possible.

### Corporate Priorities for 2015-2020

- 1 Drive forward, through effective marketing and information, proactive engagement with the people of Bury to take ownership of their own health and wellbeing.
- 2 Continue to develop business friendly policies to attract inward investment and new jobs so that Bury retains its position as a premier destination for retail, leisure, tourism and culture.
- 3 Ensure new and affordable housing is developed to support growth in the Bury and Greater Manchester economy.
- 4 Build on the culture of efficiency and effectiveness through new, progressive and integrated partnership working models to drive forward the Council's and Greater Manchester Public Service growth and reform agenda.
- 5 Ensure staff have the right skills to embrace significant organisational change, through embedding a culture of ownership, empowerment and decision making at all levels of the organisation.
- 6 Work toward reducing reliance on government funding by developing new models of delivery that are affordable, add value and based on need.

To this end, the highway policies will assist the corporate priorities in the following manner;

A safe highway directly affects public health and well being. A well maintained street environment can act as a catalyst to encourage healthy behaviours such as increased cycling, walking and running. Consultation throughout the evolution of the HAMP will ensure that the public and key stakeholders can take an active role in influencing highway management strategies adopted.

Indirectly, sense of pride in ones surroundings can be engendered from a good environment which can be related to feelings of well being.

Poorly maintained roads have a direct impact on users in

terms of vehicle operating costs. Reliable and safe journeys are a fundamental element of a transport infrastructure that seeks to support commerce and invites inward investment. Well maintained highway assets provide many benefits including: promoting sustainable transport; promoting public transport; and promoting economic development by supporting a 24 hour economy.

We understand the role that effective asset management can play in maximising the standard of Bury's transport network within available resources, therefore playing a vital role in building and maintaining a strong local economy.

The highway network is intrinsic to the daily interactions of society. Besides the quality and repair of buildings adjoining the public highway, which the Council cannot readily influence, a major part of our living environment is the highway.

People's surroundings are known to influence their behaviours, feelings of pride in place and safety. By using asset management to ensure the best possible street scene environment, we can support this priority.

## Making a Difference?

Successful attainment of asset management principles should result in real, measurable differences. We should be able to;-

- maintain our assets using sustainable cost effective treatments and maximised the number of assets that we repaired for our given budget.
- hold accurate, reliable data that we used to support our decisions and demonstrated how we made these choices.
- show that the results collected via the National Highways & Transport Survey indicated that residents are satisfied with the work we did to our assets.
- show an improvement in the condition data and performance of our highway assets as a result of adopting rolling 5 year programmes of work.