

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Environment and Highways Cabinet Board**

10 December 2015

### **Report of the Head of Streetcare**

M. Roberts

#### **Matter for Decision**

**Wards Affected:** All

#### **HIGHWAY ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN**

#### **Purpose of Report**

- 1 To update Members with regard to ongoing development of Highway Asset Management planning and seek endorsement of a revised plan.

#### **Background**

- 2 In Neath Port Talbot as in other areas, residents, visitors and the business community rely on the local highway infrastructure to undertake their everyday activities. In line with guidance and best practice the Council is continuing to improve Highway Asset Management Planning. The Council's current Highway Asset Management Plan was adopted by Members in July 2013. The HAMP identifies the main asset groups of the highways infrastructure, individual asset inventory and condition data, along with any gaps where issues need to be reviewed to bring practices/assets up to required standards.
- 3 The aim of adopting an Asset Management strategy is to allow a planned approach to improve the management of the highway asset in respect of those components that are maintainable at public expense and for which the Council, as Highway Authority, is responsible. The Council's aim is to ensure the asset is

maintained efficiently to both a safe and serviceable condition in support of the objectives established in the Neath Port Talbot Single Integrated Plan, and the asset plan is intended to set out in practical terms the Council's strategy for doing so.

- 4 In Wales, all authorities have agreed to follow a generic HAMP format derived from working group commissions instigated by CSS Wales (formerly County Surveyor's Society).
- 5 This is the third review of the Council's HAMP since its adoption and the document has been further developed in line with nationally agreed criteria.
- 6 The revised document is attached as Appendix A.
- 7 Highway Asset Management Plans are not a means to an end in themselves and funding is required to take them forward in an ever challenging financial climate. Inevitably there has to be a process of prioritising Council expenditure against competing needs with issues directly affecting safety (e.g. surface condition) and potential property damage (e.g. drainage) increasingly coming to the fore.

### **Financial Impact**

- 8 No direct financial implications. The Highway Asset Management Plan is a means of helping to identify the implications of given spending levels and ensure that available monies are spent to best effect.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

- 9 A Screening Assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. After completing the assessment it has been determined that this proposal does not require an Equalities Impact Assessment

### **Workforce Impact**

- 10 None

## **Legal Impact**

11 None

## **Risk Management**

12 An asset management approach to Highway infrastructure provides with a framework for informed decision making. This plan sets out the management arrangements required to ensure the benefits of investment are optimised and that the highway asset is managed to meet the expectations of the highway user, within the context of the Council meeting its statutory duties as the Highway Authority.

## **Consultation**

13 There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

## **Recommendation(s)**

14 It is recommended that the revised Highway Asset Management Plan is endorsed.

## **Reason for Proposed Decision(s)**

15 To continue the Council's progress with taking forward Highway Asset Management Planning.

## **Implementation of Decision**

16 The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

## **Appendices**

17 Equalities Impact Screening Assessment

## Officer Contact

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