

**Rotherham Metropolitan Borough
Council**

Highway Asset Management Policy

November 2024

Introduction

Our highways connect people to jobs, education, shopping, recreation, and services. They are an essential part of the overall transport network, and we need to maximise their potential to connect people to places in a safe and sustainable way.

The highway network is an essential and valuable asset; in fact, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) is the Highway Authority responsible for the maintenance of 744 miles (1,190km) of roads, 1,039 miles (1,667 km) of footway and 258 miles (415 km) of public rights of Way. 146 highway structures, bridges, and subways, (greater than 1.5m span), 149 signalised junctions and crossings – Pelican, Toucan and Puffin activated 36,402 street lighting columns and 46,880 road gullies, grids and soakaways.

The Council has calculated the total asset value in accordance with requirements of the whole Government accounts to be gross replacement cost £1.93 billion and the depreciation replacement cost to be £1,5 billion. The Highway Asset is most expensive asset the Council owns.

Note: The Department for Transport also manages some roads in the Borough - the combined 16 miles (25km) length of the M1 and M18 Motorway network.

Corporate Priorities

Rotherham Council places great significance on the management of its highway network.

The Council Plan 2022 / 2025 includes in the Theme: EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIVING with a commitment to improve roads and repair potholes.

The Council Plan 2022 / 2025 includes a Performance Measure to improve the proportion of the local road network classed as 'green status' (do not require repair)

- The Councils Year Ahead Delivery Plan includes in the Theme: EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIVING - Repair 737 estate roads (160km) (between April 2020- March 24) through the "£24 million to 2024" roads programme.

Statutory Obligation

In addition to meeting our corporate priorities, the Council also has a statutory duty under Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 to maintain our highway network.

Policy Statement

The Council believes good asset management is essential to effectively deliver highway services to achieve its long-term corporate priorities. Through well managed and maintained highways we will keep people and goods moving effectively, providing a resilient network to enhance productivity and support economic growth.

Our primary objective is to keep Rotherham's roads and footways in a safe condition and to nationally recognised standards for all our users.

The Council will follow good asset management principles which will enable informed decisions to be made about long-term investment and maintenance funding. Resources will then be prioritised and targeted at where they are most effective.

Highways Asset Management Plans

The UK Government recommends local highway authorities to publish a Highways Asset Management Plan (HAMP) to set out a strategy to show how their statutory duty will be met and to show how the highways network will be managed and maintained. The Council published a new HAMP and Strategy in 2015, which is updated annually, and sets out how we intend to:

- Adopt a systematic approach which takes a long term view of how we maintain and manage highway assets.
- Take into consideration whole life costs when maintaining assets through detailed knowledge of the size, safety, condition and value of our highways asset.
- Using our Corporate Priorities as a lead, establish and define what level of service we need from each asset taking into consideration customer expectations.
- Use life cycle planning to monitor and anticipate the future condition of assets and to know when we need to maintain or replace it.
- Optimise assets by the use of a robust evidence based decision making process for the prioritisation of work.
- Adopt a continuous improvement approach to asset management policies and practices to ensure best value for money is achieved to maximise our available funding.

Consultation and Engagement

Engagement has been carried out with key stakeholders on the strategy for managing our highway assets and our decision-making process.

Communicating the Policy

This policy is published on the Councils website (www.Rotherham.gov.uk) along with the associated Highways Asset Management Strategy and Plan. The Rotherham Highways Communication Strategy details the method of informing and notifying stakeholders of our proposed highway asset maintenance.

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/transport-streets/rotherham-highways-communications-strategy/5>

Date Revised	Date Approved	Summary of Changes	Author
28/11/2024		Annual Update	Andy Saxton