



**Meeting:** Transport Working Party

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015

**Wards Affected:** All Wards in Torbay

**Report Title:** Transport Asset Management Plan

**Executive Lead Contact Details:** Councillor R Excell, Executive Lead for Community Services

**Supporting Officer Contact Details:** Tim Northway, Principal Engineer (Network Management)

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## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 Torbay Council has formally adopted the principles of Asset Management as set out in the Strategic Transport Asset Management Plan published in May 2014.

To accompany this plan the Council is required to publish its Asset Management Strategy to set out its intended methods of maximising the use of highway maintenance funding in looking after this essential asset.

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to adopt this Strategy and to publish it on the Council's website.

## 2. Proposed Decision

- 2.1 It is proposed that members recommend that this Strategy is adopted for use within the Torbay area. (See **Appendix 1**)

## 3. Action Needed

- 3.1 It is recommended that members approve the use of the Asset Management Strategy, thus proving their acceptance of the principles of asset management techniques in maintaining the publicly maintainable highway asset.

## 4. Summary

- 4.1 The Council has already adopted an Asset Management Plan and Policy, proving elected member's commitment to efficiently looking after its highway network. The adoption of this 'Strategy' document is now required to enable the authority to be in a position to further prove its commitment to asset management principles. The proof of using this strategy is required to bid for the new Highway Maintenance Incentive Fund, thus protecting future maintenance funding bids.

## **Supporting Information**

### **5. Position**

- 5.1 Torbay Council has been using the principles of asset management and in particular concentrating on using preventative maintenance methods for many years. However, following the need to prove this and to be able to protect future funding streams, documented evidence is required.
- 5.2 April 2016 will see the implementation of Whole of Government Accounting, which will see the highway infrastructure network included in an authority's inventory account. This will eventually enable the efficiency of an authority's maintenance techniques to be assessed and allow the better performing authorities to be rewarded from an Incentive Fund.
- 5.3 In May 2013 a Department for Transport sponsored guidance document was produced by the 'Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme' (HMEP) which contained a series of recommendations. This document is available to view on the following web link - [www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org/en/utilities/document-summary.cfm?docid=5C49F48E-1CE0-477F-933ACBFA169AF8CB](http://www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org/en/utilities/document-summary.cfm?docid=5C49F48E-1CE0-477F-933ACBFA169AF8CB) Whilst most of these were already in operation within this authority, the document did however, make a total of 14 recommendations for highway authorities to consider regarding asset management. Most of these were implemented as toolkits associated with the production of an asset management plan became available, but the Strategy was not fully developed at the time that the Plan was published. This is now being remedied and will be further evidence of our elected member's commitment into providing an efficient highway maintenance service.

### **6 Possibilities and Options**

#### **6.1 Option 1**

The Strategy is adopted and endorsed.

#### **Option 2**

The Strategy is not adopted.

### **7 Consultation**

- 7.1 The Portfolio Holder has been consulted on the content and intentions behind this 'Strategy'.

### **8 Risks**

- 8.1 If the Strategy is not adopted, there is a risk for the authority to lose 25% of its indicative highway maintenance funding from the Department for Transport by 2018. All highway authorities are expected to demonstrate their future commitment to adopting all the principles associated with efficient highway asset management.

### **Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy

### **Additional Information:**

None

**Documents available in Members' Rooms:** None

### **Background Papers:**

None