

Record of Decisions

Introduction of Updated Transport Asset Management Policy and the publishing of related updated Highway Policies.

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 14 December 2021.

Decision

That the implementation and publishing of the Infrastructure Asset Management Policy and Asset Management Strategy, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to the submitted report be approved.

Reason for the Decision

The Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy and Infrastructure Asset Management Policy are a requirement of the Department for Transport to demonstrate the Council's commitment to maintain the highway infrastructure in a responsible and considered manner.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 29 December 2021 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The effective and efficient management of the existing highway infrastructure is a key factor in the ability of the Council to deliver its services. The "Highway" which is managed by SWISCo on behalf of Torbay Council, as the local highway authority (LHA), forms the largest and most valuable public asset within Torbay Councils control, with a gross value in excess of £0.7 billion.

The Department for Transport requires local highway authorities to demonstrate their commitment to meeting the aims and requirements of the principles of asset management practices. Part of this process involved an authority scoring itself on a series of related practices. The indicative capital funding allocation for highway maintenance was top sliced and authorities were then required to claim and defend their right to a scoring band between 1 to 3. Failure to reach and retain the higher overall scoring band results in a loss of part, or all of the subsequent 'incentive fund'. Torbay Council had consistently scored as a high Band 3 authority and thus avoided the potential loss of funding. However the Council is, required to demonstrate its ongoing commitment in adopting the best practices hence the need to formally adopt the Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy and Infrastructure Asset Management Policy.

At the meeting Councillor Morey proposed and Councillor Steve Darling seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

There were no alternative options considered as the Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy and Infrastructure Asset Management Policy are an essential part of the DfT Self-Assessment and as such, are required to maintain the Council's status as a level 3 authority and to secure the yearly additional funding.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

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17 December 2021

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet