

## Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy

Walsall Council has a clearly defined vision within its Corporate Plan that is '*Inequalities are reduced and all potential is maximised*'; the Council's purpose is '*to create an environment that provides opportunities for all individuals and communities to fulfil their potential*'. A well-managed safe and efficient highway network underpins the vision and purpose while directly promoting the following Council priorities:

- Economic growth for all people, communities and businesses
- People have increased independence, improved health and can positively contribute to their communities
- Communities are prospering and resilient with all housing needs met in safe and healthy places that build a strong sense of belonging and cohesion

The Council is committed to making best use of its resources and part of this requires the implementation of an asset management approach with regard to highway maintenance activities. Adopting an asset management approach for the maintenance of its highway infrastructure is critical for our long-term asset infrastructure planning objectives and corporate priorities.

The highway infrastructure is the most valuable asset owned and maintained by the Council, a fundamental pre-requisite for Asset Management Policy will be to ensure that the asset base is preserved or improved without imposing any undue financial legacy for future generations.

The highway infrastructure is a vital component for providing an integrated transport system that helps to promote equality and opportunity for all our residents by maintaining and improving the connectivity and accessibility of our transport systems. The Council will encourage and assist local communities and interest parties to participate in looking after local assets to improve local amenity. The Council will work as 'one team' with its service delivery partner to fully explore available expertise and improve the service delivered.

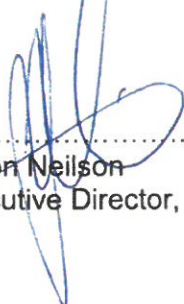
As highway authority with over 840km of carriageway to maintain the Council has to manage its highway network under increasing pressures from growing traffic volumes, particularly heavy goods vehicles, increasing network demands along with environmental and climate change.

This Policy aligns our asset management practices with our corporate vision, values and priorities; we recognise the specific and vital role played by the highway infrastructure in supporting the Council's strategic transport goals.

The Council will develop, review and update an Asset Management Plan that will be used to inform and develop an Asset Management Strategy; both documents will clearly demonstrate decisions that are being made in response to pressures placed on highway assets and provide an integrated approach to highway infrastructure. This will be achieved by the establishment of local service levels through risk-based assessment in accordance with 'Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure: A Code of Practice'.

Signed:  .....

Councillor Adrian Andrew  
Deputy Leader & Portfolio Holder, Regeneration.

Signed:  .....

Simon Neilson  
Executive Director, Economy and Environment.

Signed:  .....

James Walsh  
Executive Director, Resources and Transformation  
(S151 Officer/Chief Finance Officer)

Signed:  ..... 29/10/18

Steve Pretty  
Head of Service, Planning, Engineering and Transportation