

Name of the activity being assessed	Highway Asset Management Policy & Strategy				
Directorate / Department	Environment	Service	Highways	Assessment lead	Matthew Joyce
Is this a new or existing activity?	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing	Responsible manager / director for the assessment		Simon Butt	
Date EIA started	10/03/2015	Implementation date of the activity		26/06/2015	

SECTION 1 - ABOUT YOUR ACTIVITY

How was the need for this activity identified?	The Council has a legal duty as the local highway authority to maintain the adopted highways. Highway maintenance is carried out on an ongoing basis. Asset management supports decisions and provides long term financial benefits; it assists in understanding the structure and character of the highway network and describes how it performs as well as assisting in determining the funding needed to meet the requirements placed upon it. Best practice guidelines published by the UK Roads Liaison Group, recommend that it is good practice to define maintenance practices in a policy document.
What is the activity looking to achieve? What are the aims and objectives?	The Council as local highway authority has a duty to maintain the adopted highway as specified in the Highways Act 1980. This policy is designed to continue to improve the overall condition of the network, to reduce accidents and to reduce the overall ongoing cost of meeting our legal obligation to maintain the highway. The Highway Asset Management Strategy defines how the Council will establish long term objectives for the highway network incorporating statutory obligations, stakeholder needs, local priorities, structural condition, funding and resources.
Services currently provided (if applicable)	Currently the management of the asset is carried out in an ad-hoc manner by various officers.
Please outline recommendations that have been identified for implementation following a review of the activity.	<p>The Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme promotes the use of asset management by local highway authorities such as Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council. Their Potholes Review: Prevention and a Better Cure states that asset management allows authorities to estimate the funding required to deliver the required level of service for their highway network and provides the tools and processes that ensure efficient and effective use of available resources. Asset management supports a more efficient approach to maintaining highway infrastructure. The HMEP Asset Management Guidance contains 14 recommendations focussing on data management and using asset management plans to align the corporate vision.</p> <p>Information for Councillors advises that asset management promotes a business-like way to highway maintenance. It makes the best use of available resources and takes a long term view of highway management so making the best use of public money whilst minimising the risk involved in maintenance.</p> <p>The policy and strategy will be reviewed annually alongside the associated impact assessments.</p>
Type of activity	<input type="checkbox"/> Budget changes <input type="checkbox"/> Change to existing activity <input type="checkbox"/> Decommissioning <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioning <input type="checkbox"/> New activity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other [Policy]

SECTION 2 - UNDERSTANDING YOUR CUSTOMER**Who else will be involved in undertaking the equality analysis and impact assessment?**

Please identify additional sources of information you have used to complete the EIA, e.g. reports; journals; legislation etc.

The head of service and the partnership director have contributed to the draft policy as has Network Recovery's project manager. Recommendations have been taken from several documents published through the Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme such as the [Pothole Review](#), [Asset Management Guidance](#) and [What Should Councillors Know](#)

Health & Social Care Act (2012): <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/7/contents/enacted>

Who are you consulting with? How are you consulting with them? (Please insert any information around surveys and consultations undertaken)

Consultation with residents takes place through local ward solution meetings; these are open to all residents and are usually chaired by ward councillors. Complaints and concerns are logged and investigated and subsequently progress is fed back to a subsequent meeting.

Every two months, officers attend the Blackburn and Darwen Town Centre Partnership Board's meetings where highway issues are regularly discussed. Blackburn Chamber of Trade and Darwen Shop and Business Association are members on these boards and represent the wider business communities in each town.

Consultations have taken place with the Director of Growth and Prosperity and the Director for Environment, Housing & Neighbourhoods and the Executive Member for Environment. The Director of Growth and Prosperity and the Director of Environment, Housing & Neighbourhoods meet regularly with the leaders of all political parties.

Who does the activity impact upon?	Service users	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indirectly		
	Members of staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Indirectly		
	General public	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indirectly		
	Carers or families	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Indirectly		
	Partner organisations	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Indirectly		
Does the activity impact positively or negatively on any of the protected characteristics as stated within the Equality Act (2010)?	Positive impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage & Civil Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy & maternity
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion or belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation	
	Negative impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Age	<input type="checkbox"/> Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage & Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy & maternity
		<input type="checkbox"/> Race	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion or belief	<input type="checkbox"/> Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation	
	Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Age	<input type="checkbox"/> Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage & Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy & maternity
		<input type="checkbox"/> Race	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion or belief	<input type="checkbox"/> Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation	

Does the activity contribute towards meeting the Equality Act's general Public Sector Equality Duty?		Refer to p.2 of the guidance
DUTY	DOES IT CONTRIBUTE?	EXPLAIN HOW
Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act <i>(i.e. the activity removes or minimises disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristic)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Maintaining the highway system benefits all residents of and visitors to the Borough. Residents are able to raise concerns via their ward councillors which along with the annual structural surveys of the physical condition of the highway indicate which areas and lengths of carriageway are in need of maintenance. The new policy and strategy define how highway management will comply with both the Equality Act (2010) and the Health and Social Care Act (2012).
Advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not <i>(i.e. the activity takes steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not <i>(i.e. the function encourages people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

ASSESSMENT	Is a full EIA required?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Please explain how you have reached your conclusion <i>(A lack of negative impacts must be justified with evidence and clear reasons, highlight how the activity negates or mitigates any possible negative impacts)</i>			
As all roads in the Borough are available for use by all persons irrespective of any protected characteristics, everyone benefits from improved management of the highway network.			
The introduction of this policy will positively assist the Council to manage the highway network to nationally recognised standards and recommendations.			

Signature		Date	15/06/2015
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