

Highway Asset Management Policy

September 2026

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Foreword

Staffordshire's highway network is essential to everyday life, supporting travel, economic growth and community wellbeing.

This Asset Management Policy sets out how we will manage and maintain this vital infrastructure in a consistent, efficient and sustainable way.

By applying asset management principles, we will make informed, evidence-based decisions that maximise value, improve resilience and ensure a safe, reliable network. Working collaboratively and planning for the long term, we aim to minimise disruption, make best use of resources, and support the county's wider strategic goals.

This policy underpins our commitment to keeping Staffordshire connected, accessible and fit for the future.



County Councillor Peter Mason

Cabinet Member for Highways

September 2026

Staffordshire's highway network underpins the county's success by enabling access to education, employment and essential services, while supporting economic activity, wellbeing and connected communities. Maintaining a safe, reliable and resilient network is therefore fundamental to sustaining economic growth, meeting environmental ambitions and enhancing quality of life.

The highway network has a variety of assets with over 4,000 miles of carriageways, 1,200 bridges, 168,000 gullies, 108,000 streetlights and over 117,000 signs and bollards. The highway network assets are ever changing in condition and intervention to manage this is critical through good practices and processes. To replace all the carriageways within Staffordshire would cost in the region of £5.5bn and £778m for the footways.

As the local highway authority, Staffordshire County Council has a statutory duty to maintain the highway network. This responsibility is carried out against a backdrop of increasing demand, rising costs, ageing infrastructure and a legacy of underinvestment.

Aligned with the Council's Strategic Direction, the Staffordshire Highways Roadmap and the Local Transport Plan, this Highway Asset Management Policy sets out a clear, consistent and evidence-led approach to managing the county's highway assets. It establishes a framework for a diverse asset base prioritising investment where it delivers the greatest value, while supporting transparent decision-making, improved performance, reduced whole-life costs and a network that meets the county's future needs.

Staffordshire County Council has strengthened its highway asset management approach in line with national guidance, including the Highway Maintenance Efficiency Programme and the UK Roads Leadership Group's Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure Code of Practice, promoting a modern, risk-based approach to maintenance.

To support this, the Council has developed a Highway Asset Management Framework, providing a consistent, structured approach that embeds asset management across planning, decision-making and service delivery.

The framework is underpinned by key enablers such as governance, data and systems, lifecycle planning, risk management, performance monitoring and continuous improvement. It links strategic objectives to maintenance and improvement delivery, ensuring investment decisions are evidence-led, transparent and aligned with wider Council priorities, including the Highways Roadmap and Strategic Direction.

Staffordshire Highway Asset Management Framework

Highway Asset Management Policy (HAMP)

Sets out the links to the Councils Strategic Direction

Provides statement of the high-level principles that will be adopted in applying asset management

Highway Asset Management Strategy (HAMS)

Sets out the strategic direction that will apply to the delivery of the Highway Asset Management Policy

Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (HIAMP)

A detailed document describing the systems and processes that will be operated to deliver formalised asset management

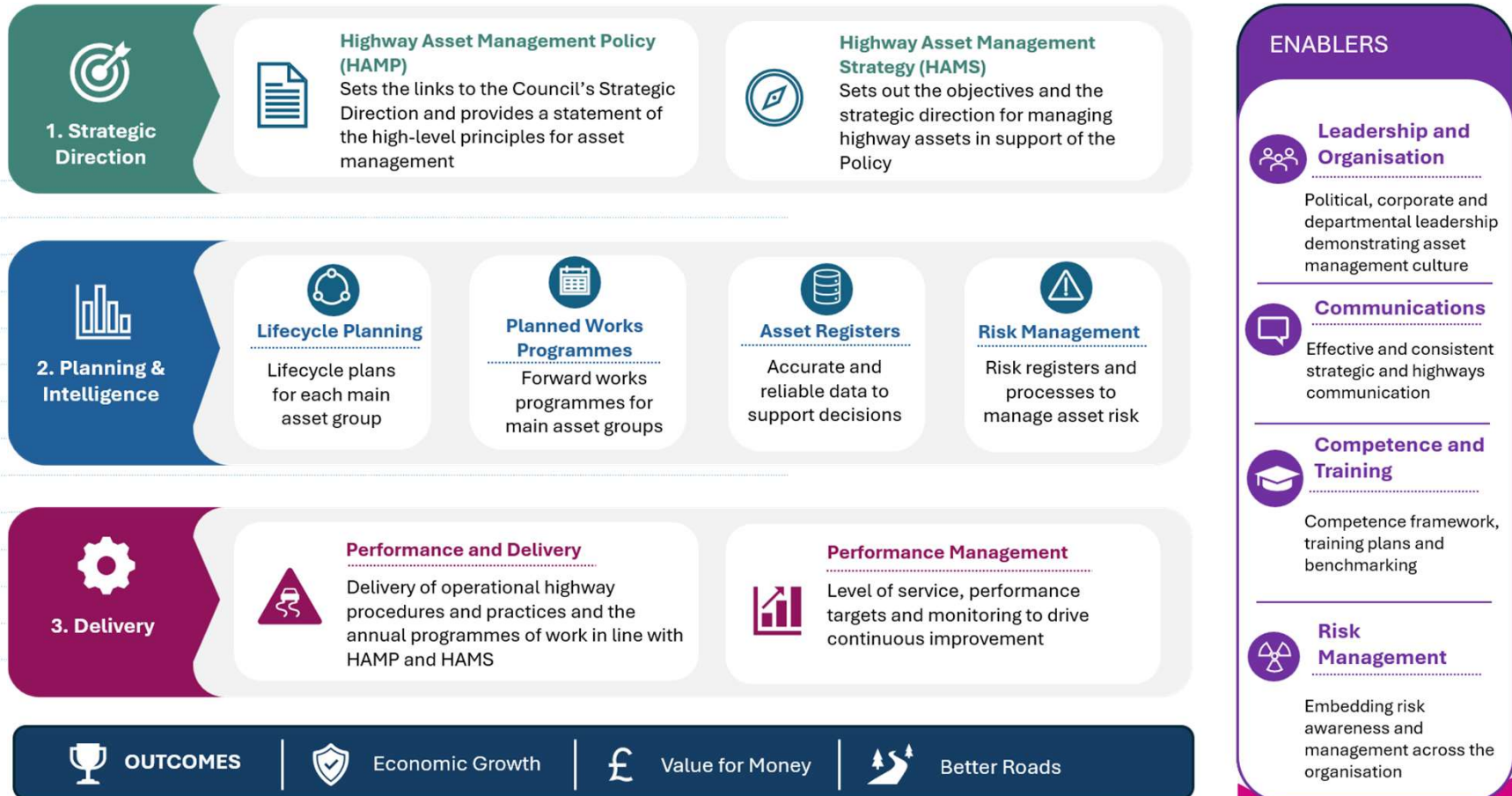
Highway Occupational Processes, Practice and Procedures

A suite of Quality Assurance (QA) documents that provide consistent and co-ordinated guidance for staff and stakeholders, regarding the day-to-day operational delivery of asset management.

Operational Highway Delivery

Day to day operational highway processes, procedures and practices and the annual programmes of work in accordance with the above documents and processes

Asset Management Planning and Enablers



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Asset Management Supporting Principles

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Core Principles

The delivery of this policy is shaped by a set of core principles that define how asset management decisions are made and prioritised. Together, they emphasise a balanced approach, meeting the needs of communities and road users, making best use of available funding, and managing assets in a way that is safe, resilient and sustainable. These principles guide day-to-day activities as well as long-term planning, ensuring that investment is targeted, risks are understood and managed, and continuous improvement is embedded across all aspects of the service.

key principles:

- Community focus - understand and respond to the needs of residents, businesses and stakeholders, supporting accessible and reliable networks.
- Value and efficiency - use robust data, lifecycle planning and a “right treatment, right time” approach to maximise value for money.
- Safety and risk management - prioritise safety, manage risks proportionately and maintain a resilient, reliable network.
- Sustainable outcomes - support economic growth, connectivity and sustainable travel while protecting the environment and reducing environmental impacts.
- Continuous improvement - use performance data, innovation and collaboration to improve services and deliver better long-term outcomes.

The Case for Asset Management

Supporting Strategic Outcomes Through Effective Asset Management



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Supporting the Strategic Direction 26-28

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Staffordshire County Council's Strategic Direction (2026–2028) sets out the vision and priorities for the county and its communities. It highlights key challenges, including improving physical and digital connectivity, supporting economic growth, building safe and resilient communities, and making best use of limited resources. Reliable infrastructure is identified as essential to enable access to jobs, education and services, and to support attractive, well-functioning places that encourage investment and community wellbeing.

Role of Highway Asset Management

- Maintains a safe, reliable and resilient highway network
- Ensures consistent connectivity for residents and businesses, reducing disruption
- Targets investment using evidence to keep key routes efficient and operational
- Supports economic growth by improving access to employment and services
- Aligns maintenance with wider transport goals to promote healthier, sustainable travel
- Helps reduce environmental impacts
- Maximises value through efficient use of funding and long-term planning
- Contributes to thriving communities and wider strategic priorities

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Supporting the Local Transport Plan

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Staffordshire County Council's Local Transport Plan (approved December 2025) sets out a long-term vision for a connected, efficient and sustainable transport network. It focuses on improving connectivity, expanding travel choices, and supporting informed travel decisions, using a balanced multi-modal approach (walking, cycling, public transport and car use). The plan aims to enable economic growth, create safe and healthy communities, and protect the environment through a well-managed and reliably maintained network.

How Highway Asset Management Supports the LTP

- Aligns maintenance and investment with the LTP's long-term vision
- Applies a whole-life approach to maximise asset performance and value
- Prioritises investment to improve network reliability, resilience and connectivity
- Supports efficient movement of people and goods across the county
- Maintains high-quality infrastructure for walking, wheeling and cycling
- Integrates active travel with the wider transport network
- Strengthens coordination across assets, programmes, utilities and partners
- Promotes forward planning and joint delivery to reduce disruption
- Improves efficiency and enables reinvestment in backlog and resilience
- Ensures the network remains accessible, well-managed and fit for future growth

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