

**Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills,
Executive Director for Environment and Economy**

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| Report to: | Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee |
| Date: | 18 September 2017 |
| Subject: | Highways Asset Management Plan – Well Managed Highway Infrastructure Code of Practice |

Summary:

This report details the review process of the Highways Asset Management Plan, which is being updated following the publication of "Well Managed Highway Infrastructure - A Code of Practice". The changes to this national guidance have significant implications for Lincolnshire's Highways Asset Management Policies and will require a thorough revision of the Plan. The purpose of this report is to give forward visibility of the potential changes before the Plan is brought before the Committee in 2018.

Actions Required:

Members of the Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee are invited to consider and comment on the process of review to bring Lincolnshire County Council's Highways Asset Management Plan in line with "Well Maintained Highway Infrastructure - A Code of Practice" by October 2018.

1. Background

- 1.1. "Well Maintained Highways – Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance Management" was published in July 2005 to provide local authorities with guidance on how to develop a highway maintenance policy based on best practice. The document prescribed standards and suggested service levels and complemented the structures and street lighting codes "Management of Highway Structures" and "Well Lit Highways" respectively. The Code of Practice was regularly referred to during highways claims against local authorities, who are expected to explain any deviation from the code.
- 1.2. Lincolnshire County Council's Highways Asset Management Plan sets out the policies and standards around highways maintenance and has traditionally highlighted any local deviations from the code of practice "Well Maintained Highways". The Highways Asset Management Plan also incorporates Structures and Street Lighting policy.

- 1.3. "Well Maintained Highways, Management of Highway Structures" and "Well Lit Highways" were superseded in October 2016 by "Well Managed Highway Infrastructure – A Code of Practice", which covers all three areas. The revision to the code is substantial and entirely risk based, moving away from a prescriptive document to a system of guidance that encourages authorities to develop their own standards and levels of service based on evidence-based risk assessment. Many of the prescribed standards which were in the previous code, which formed the basis of Lincolnshire's own, have now been removed entirely.
- 1.4. "Well Managed Highway Infrastructure – A Code of Practice" allows highway authorities to adopt a risk-based approach immediately, but otherwise advises that authorities should adopt this approach by October 2018.
- 1.5. Due to the revision to the Code of Practice, it was considered that the Highways Asset Management Plan was in need of significant review in order to align with this guidance and continue to function as a relevant Policy document which can contribute to a robust defence to any highways claims brought against the authority.
- 1.6. WSP have been commissioned to carry out a gap analysis and create an action plan based around the 34 recommendations set out in the revised Code of Practice. This gap analysis has identified some significant areas which need to be updated before the recommended implementation date of October 2018. A list of the 34 recommendations, along with the current gap and proposed actions is included at Appendix B.
- 1.7. As fairly comprehensive changes to the Highways Asset Management Plan are required, which will be brought to Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee in 2018, it is important to have good forward visibility of the likely proposed changes and the impacts these may have on the service.
- 1.8. In summary, the most significant proposed changes to the plan are:
 - A risk-based approach to hierarchies - Currently carriageway and footway hierarchies are based on the guidance in the previous code of practice, and amended slightly for local variation. This prescriptive guidance is absent from "Well Managed Highway Infrastructure" and so a full review is needed to evidence how our local hierarchies are defined.
 - A risk-based approach to inspections – following a hierarchy review, it will be necessary to amend Lincolnshire's regime of safety inspections to align with the new local road hierarchies, thus creating a sound link between network hierarchy and the frequency of inspection for Category 1 defects.
 - Review of the risk-based approach to response times to defects – The Highways Asset Management Plan introduced risk-based responses to defects in 2015, in advance of the new code of practice being published. The new code allows a chance to review this approach and further refine the concept.

1.9. One of the recommendations was engagement and communication with stakeholders. Between now and October 2018 there will be a process of consultation with key stakeholders and updates to Highways and Transport Scrutiny committee for clarity on the review. This report serves as part of that process.

2. Conclusion

The Highways Asset Management Plan review is well underway, with the changes needed to align with the new Code of Practice being prioritised and the most significant changes highlighted in this report.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

N/A

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

Risk and Impact Analysis will be carried out as part of the ongoing review of the Highways Asset Management Plan.

4. Appendices

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| These are listed below and attached at the back of the report | |
| Appendix A | Well Managed Highway Infrastructure - A Code of Practice <i>A hard copy of this report is available from Democratic Services and online at –</i> http://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=492&MId=5095&Ver=4 |
| Appendix B | Code of Practice Recommendations |

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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