

Essex County Council Highways and Transportation Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (HIAMP)

Foreword - Supporting Everyone's Essex / Helping achieve Net Zero by 2050

Welcome to Essex County Council's HIAMP – a suite of documents that collectively provide information and evidence on how the asset management process is applied to meet the strategic priorities of the Authority over the short, medium and long term. Each document reflects a significant role within the overall highway network asset management process.

This supports the vital role of the Council's highway network in the lives of residents as well as the travelling public and local businesses. This is especially relevant as the County responds to the economic and social impact of the Covid pandemic, the cost of living crisis, war in Europe, and the urgent need to address climate change.

The HIAMP sets out the Council's strategic priorities and how these will be delivered through effective asset management. This includes how standards of service are agreed through informed decisions which reference data led lifecycle planning and risk management as well as engagement with highway users. It also sets out the highway asset inspection frequencies and performance standards relating to both localised repair requirements as well as broader scoped asset replacement. It sets out too how funding and resources are allocated and how current and future works programmes are identified and delivered.

The HIAMP comprises:

1. The Essex County Council Highways and Transportation Asset Management Policy.

This document sets out how it will address the expectations of its residents and highway users through supporting the strategic priorities documented in 'Everyone's Essex' and the Local Transport Plan.

2. The Essex County Council Highways and Transportation Asset Management Strategy.

This document sets out the effective asset management processes that are aligned to delivery of the Essex County Council Highways and Transportation Asset Management Policy.

3. The Highways Maintenance Policy & General Principles.

This document sets out the asset management principles that are employed for all maintenance activities carried out in the highway for assets maintained by the Council.

4. Maintenance & Inspection Strategy: Carriageways, Footways & Cycleways.

This document sets out and describes the service levels relating to the Council's risk-based approach to managing how it organises, inspects and maintains the Carriageway, Footway and Cycleway Networks for which it is responsible.

5. Maintenance & Inspection Strategy: Structures.

This document sets out and describes the service levels relating to the Council's risk-based approach to managing how it organises, inspects and maintains the Structures for which it is responsible.

6. Maintenance & Inspection Strategy: Street Lighting.

This document sets out and describes the service levels relating to the Council's risk-based approach to managing how it organises and maintains the Street Lighting Network for which it is responsible.

7. Maintenance & Inspection Strategy: Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS).

This document sets out and describes the service levels relating to the Council's risk-based approach to managing how it organises, inspects and maintains the ITS assets for which it is responsible.

8. Maintenance Strategy: Winter.

This document sets out and describes the service levels relating to the Council's risk-based approach to how it provides the Winter service for which it is responsible.

The HIAMP is viewed as vital to delivering a sustainable, well-managed highway network that provides increasing value for money. It will also contribute to meeting the Essex Climate Action Commission's recommendations for Transport, Built Environment, Land Use, Water Use and Green Infrastructure. It can also support the development of the Essex Local Nature recovery strategy, emerging in 2023.

Photo and signature Cllr. Lee Scott

Cllr. Lee Scott: Portfolio Holder for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport

Embedding the HIAMP

The HIAMP comprises a suite of documents which have already established a framework for the delivery of the Highway Service through the long-term collaborative partnership contract between Essex County Council and its strategic partner Ringway Jacobs.

Having a suite of documents rather than one document, facilitates the flexibility needed to respond quickly to the dynamic environment of Local Authority and the highways maintenance industry. This not only makes us adaptive to change but positions us well to pursue value for money through a culture of continuous asset management improvement.

Photo and signatures Paul Crick and Simon Butt

Next review date August 2023