Have your say on the draft highway asset management policy and strategy

Introduction

Providing a high quality highway network that meets the needs of our customers is something the council is committed to. However, we face the challenge of achieving this aim against a backdrop of a difficult economic situation as a result of the ongoing impact of austerity, increasing levels of use and the increasing pressures on other council services.

The Highway Asset Management Policy and Strategy have been developed to help us to take account of these challenges. They set out the principles that will ensure we adopt and develop a strategic approach that takes account of the expectations of customers and targets the council's resources to deliver a network that supports the future prosperity and well-being of the people of Leicestershire.

The Highway Asset Management Policy and Strategy reflect the latest guidance on the application of asset management principles to highway infrastructure and the new national code of practice "Well Managed Highway Infrastructure".

Please read the draft policy and strategy documents before completing the questionnaire.

Please note: Your responses to the main part of the survey (Q1 to Q11, including your comments) may be released to the general public in full under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Any responses to the questions in the 'About you' section of the questionnaire will be held securely and will not be subject to release under Freedom of Information legislation, nor passed on to any third party.

Q1   In what role are you responding to this consultation? Please tick <u>one</u> option only

○ Resident of Leicestershire
○ Visitor to Leicestershire
○ Member of Leicestershire County Council staff
○ Tree Warden/ Snow Warden/ Flood Warden
○ County, district or parish/town councillor
○ Representative of a public sector organisation
○ Representative of a voluntary sector organisation, charity or community group
○ Representative of a business or private sector organisation
○ Other (please specify below)

Other (please specify)

[   ]

If you indicated that you represent an organisation, business or community group, please provide your details.

Name: [   ]

Organisation: [   ]

This information may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Your views and experience of using Leicestershire's highways

Please could you tell us about how you currently use Leicestershire's highways

Q2   Approximately, how often, if at all, do you use each of the following to get about...?

	Daily	Several times a week	About once a week	About once a fortnight	About once a month	Every few months	About once a year	Less often	Never
Walking (journeys of 100 metres or more)	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Cycle (commuting to from work/school)	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Cycle (recreationally on or off road)	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Bus	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Car (or van)	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Motorcycle or moped	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Horse (on or off road)	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Wheelchair or mobility scooter	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Other	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

Our draft policy

The draft policy document sets out the policy and key supporting principles which define the broad objectives and the overarching structure and direction that the County Council will adopt in managing the condition of the county highway network.

Policy statements

AMP1.We will develop and operate a formalised asset management approach to ensure the optimal use and direction of the Council's resources in maintaining the county's highway assets for the benefit of current and future stakeholders.

AMP2.We will prioritise maintenance interventions and treatment choices using a risk-based approach taking account of the safety of stakeholders, customer expectations, network hierarchy, levels of use, network condition, environmental impact and the available resources.

Q3   To what extent do you agree or disagree with the policy statements?

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Policy statement AMP1	○	○	○	○	○	○
Policy statement AMP2	○	○	○	○	○	○

Why do you say this?

Characters left: left

Supporting Principles

SP1. We will consult with stakeholders to support the identification of treatment priorities, service levels and the management of risk.

SP2. We will aim to extend the operational life of highway assets through the use of appropriately timed preventative and restorative treatments to maintain safety and serviceability whilst minimising reactive repairs.

SP3. We will develop "life-cycle models" for all key assets to forecast the consequences of maintenance strategies on budget and network condition (both short and long-term). We will use these models to inform our decisions about treatment strategy, budget requirements and priorities.

SP4. We will publish an annual programme of planned works affecting key assets as well as an annual schedule of our key service levels and performance indicators.

SP5. We will review the benefits of non-statutory, low-priority assets against the cost of maintenance and where we identify redundancy or high cost linked to minimal benefits we will seek to rationalise the asset by devolving, decommissioning or reducing the asset or its service levels. Rationalisation will be subject to an assessment of risk and consideration of the views of stakeholders.

SP6. We will use the outputs from our asset management processes to support measures that will focus on improving assets that encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport.

SP7. We will take account of the environmental impact of our maintenance treatments and services and where feasible, either reduce or mitigate these impacts.

SP8. We will review the resilience of our network to disruptive events, identifying the strategically critical links and recording these as the Resilient Network. We will prioritise the management and maintenance of this network to minimise the impact that severe weather and other disruptive events would have on economic activity and to maintain access to key services.

SP9. We will continue to ensure that as far as possible our Priority 1 and Priority 2 winter maintenance network is treated in advance of forecast snow or ice.

SP10. We will collaborate with others, particularly our supply chain, local communities and neighbouring authorities, to increase efficiencies, reduce costs and sustain local service levels.

SP11. We will continually review and develop our asset management approach across all service areas and seek ways of working more efficiently.

Q4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the supporting principles?

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
○	○	○	○	○	○

Why do you say this? Please indicate any principles you particularly agree or disagree with.

Characters left: left

Is there anything else we should consider as a supporting principle?

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Our draft strategy

Leicestershire's highway network faces continual pressure from increasing use and the impacts of weather. The council must continuously make decisions about when, how and where to undertake repairs or renew assets. These decisions are becoming increasingly difficult due to the challenging financial situation in which the council is operating.

Please refer to the full draft strategy document.

Q5   To what extent do you agree or disagree that the strategy will address the challenge of providing the best possible highways network with the resources available?

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
○	○	○	○	○	○

Why do you say this?

Characters left: left

Q6   Please provide us with any detailed comments and suggestions you have about our strategic approach to the nine core elements of our strategy (Stakeholders, the network, condition assessment etc.), as set out in our draft Highway Asset Management Strategy.

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Our proposed treatment strategies are focused on maximising the serviceable life of our highway assets.

Section 11 of the draft Highway Asset Management Strategy sets out our proposed treatment strategies for a range of asset groups.

Q7   To what extent do you agree or disagree these proposed treatment strategies will provide an adequate level of treatment within the resources available?

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
○	○	○	○	○	○

Why do you say this?

Characters left: left

Q8   Do you have any concerns about the impact of our strategy on you and/or your organisation?

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Communication of our policies, schedule of works and service standards

In practice, our proposed approach implies a wider range of response times to reported defects according to an assessment of risk. Although this will mean an improved response time for urgent work, it will necessarily mean that lower priority work may take longer to resolve. To manage expectations of the public about the time it will take us to resolve a reported defect, we will publish a generic maximum response time and repair the defect as and when it was most convenient for us within that time.

Q9   What do you think would be a reasonable maximum response time for medium risk/ medium priority issues?

- ◯ 30 days (1 month)
- ◯ 60 days (2 months)
- ◯ 90 days (3 months)
- ◯ 120 days (4 months)
- ◯ 150 days (5 months)
- ◯ 180 days (6 months)
- ◯ Longer than 180 days (6 months)
- ◯ Don't know

Why do you say this?

Characters left: left

Q10   To what extent do you agree or disagree that the county council...

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
... publicises it's highways maintenance service standards well enough?	○	○	○	○	○	○
... publicises it's annual programme of works well enough?	○	○	○	○	○	○
... lets people know sufficiently well about disruptive events and their potential impacts?	○	○	○	○	○	○

Why do you say this? What else could we do?

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Other ideas or comments

Q11   Do you have any other comments?

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About you

Leicestershire County Council is committed to ensuring that its services, policies and practices are free from discrimination and prejudice and that they meet the needs of all sections of the community.

We would therefore be grateful if you would answer the questions below. You are under no obligation to provide the information requested, but it would help us greatly if you did.

Q12   What is your gender identity?

   ◯ Male

   ◯ Female

   ◯ Other (e.g. pangender, non-binary etc.)

Q13   Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were assigned at birth?

   ◯ Yes

   ◯ No

Q14   What was your age on your last birthday? (Please enter your age in numbers not words)

Q15 What is your full postcode? This will tell us how far people are travelling to use our services. It will not identify your house.

[   ]

Q16 Are you a parent or a carer of a young person aged 17 or under?

○ Yes
○ No

If yes, what are the ages of the children in your care? Please tick <u>all</u> applicable

☐ 0-4
☐ 5-10
☐ 11-15
☐ 16-17

Q17 Are you a carer of a person aged 18 or over?

○ Yes
○ No

Q18 Do you have a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity?

○ Yes

○ No

Q19 What is your ethnic group? Please tick <u>one</u> option only.

○ White

○ Mixed

○ Asian or Asian British

○ Black or Black British

○ Other ethnic group

Q20 What is your religion?

○ No religion

○ Christian (all denominations)

○ Buddhist

○ Hindu

○ Jewish

○ Muslim

○ Sikh

○ Any other religion

Q21   Are you an employee of Leicestershire County Council?

○ Yes

○ No

Q22   Many people face discrimination because of their sexual orientation and for this reason we have decided to ask this monitoring question. You do not have to answer it, but we would be grateful if you could tick the box next to the category which describes your sexual orientation.

○ Bi-sexual

○ Gay

○ Heterosexual / straight

○ Lesbian

○ Other

Thank you for your assistance. Your views are important to us. The consultation closes at midnight on 26th March 2017, and we will report the results back to the council's cabinet in June 2017.

Please click the 'Submit' button below to send us your response. It may take a few seconds to send your response. **Please only click the button once.**