

HIGHWAY STRUCTURES MAINTENANCE POLICY STATEMENT

Report of the Corporate Director for Place Management & Regeneration

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to ensure that the way in which the Council manages its structures aligns with Section C of Well-managed Highways Infrastructure: A Code of Practice (WMHI). The document provides guidance on the way in which highway structures are inspected, assessed and maintained and how the relevant data is stored and utilised.

If approved, this report will supplement several other previously adopted maintenance policies which were approved in 2018.

2. BACKGROUND

The Well-managed Highways Infrastructure Code of Practice (WMHI) was published in 2016 and came in to full effect at the end of October 2018 when the Well-Maintained Highways, Management of Highways Structures and Well-lit Highways Codes of Practice ceased to be recognised.

Historically the Council has relied on meeting the standards of the old codes to defend the quality of our maintenance processes, and this has been accepted in court when defending highways related claims. The WMHI contains no prescriptive or minimum standards for maintenance responses. The WMHI advises Councils that it be used in conjunction with the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Guidance, as the starting point against which to develop, review and formally approve highway infrastructure maintenance policy.

This document has been developed to meet the advice contained within the WMHI and therefore to support: the risk based approach to maintenance; the collection of data and the maintenance of a detailed network inventory to assist with asset management; enable efficient claims management; and support the Council's financial and lifecycle planning for the assets. The Structures Maintenance Policy Statement can be found in Appendix 1.

The policy statement has also been considered in terms of the likely impact the policy may have on people with protected characteristics. The accompanying Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) can be found in Appendix 2.

3. FUTURE REPORTS

It is intended that further reports will be brought to Committee in the future to implement additional changes to support the Council's delivery of asset management in line with the WMHI.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS TO SCRUTINY

Scrutiny is recommended to comment on the proposed documents to deliver asset management in line with the WMHI and to support the documents approval by Cabinet.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none.

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Sue Stevenson on Tel: 0161-474-4351 or by email on sue.stevenson@stockport.gov.uk