

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION FORM

**DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY: CLLR STUART WHITTINGHAM**

**KEY DECISION: YES**

**PORTFOLIO AREA: HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT**

**PORTFOLIOS AFFECTED: HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT**

**WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS**

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**SUBJECT: HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY  
AND HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

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### **1. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Cabinet Member is requested to:

1. Endorse the draft Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Framework approach (see Strategy document page 2).
2. Approve the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy (HIAMP).
3. Approve the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy (HIAMS).
4. Instruct officers to further develop the HIAMP and HIAMS and to report back in the future.

### **2. REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

In December 2014 the Secretary of State for Transport announced that £6 billion would be made available between 2015/16 and 2020/21 for local highway maintenance Capital funding. Of this, £578 million has been set aside for an incentive fund scheme to reward Councils who demonstrate they are delivering value for money in carrying out cost effective improvements.

Local highway authorities in England were invited to submit a Highways Maintenance Capital Funding Self-Assessment Questionnaire, in order to establish the share of the incentive fund they were eligible for in 2016/17.

Central Government (through the DfT) have provided clear indication that local Highway Authorities are expected to embed the use of asset management principles for the future maintenance of their highway infrastructure assets and this is scored through the self-assessment questionnaire.

The Council currently has a self-assessment questionnaire score of Band 3 but this is a default score purely due to Wirral being part of the Devolved Liverpool City Region. The Council standalone score is currently a Band 1 and this could be detrimental in funding terms. In the February 2018 submission, Highways need to demonstrate a Band 2 score (out of the current 3 Bands) in order to hold our own in the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

To achieve a Band 2, as a Highway Authority, we will have to demonstrate we have embedded asset management principles into management of the network and assets. Endorsement of the HIAMP and HIAMS are essential in working towards achieving this.

Furthermore, in October 2016 a new Code of Practice was published by the UK Roads Liaison Group (UKRLG) which replaces "Well-maintained Highways", "Management of Highway Structures" and "Well-lit Highways".

The new Code supports the change from reliance on specific guidance and recommendations in previous Codes to a risk-based approach determined by each Highway Authority which will involve appropriate analysis, development and gaining of approval through authorities' own executive processes.

The Code is further supported by the document endorsed by the Institute of Highway Engineers "Well Managed Highway Liability Risk" (March 2017).

Local Highway Authorities have been given a period of 2 years in order to comply with the new Highway Code of Practice; compliance is therefore, necessary by October 2018.

Asset management principles are critical to support the Code and the Courts will look to the new Code as an example of good practice when assessing claims.

This is a Key Decision and affects all wards.

### **3. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE.**

*The recommendations are made further to legal advice from the Deputy Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been completed. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.*

#### 4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There are no conflicts of interest.

<b>Signed:</b>  <b>Executive Member: Cllr Stuart Whittingham</b> <b>Date: 6 December 2017</b> <b>Also present:</b>	<b>Signed:</b>  <b>Chief Officer: Mark Smith</b> <b>Date: 6 December 2017</b>
<b>Date of Senior Policy Team Meeting(s):</b>	

**A list of background papers on this issue is held with:**

Contact Officer: Catherine Brownlow  
Date: 5 December 2017

**Date of Publication:**

**Date of Expiry of Call-In Period:**

*Form Reference: Executive Member Decision Form May 2012 v 1.0*

