



ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Thursday, 3 December 2020

REPORT TITLE:	HIGHWAYS INFRASTRUCTURE ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY, STRATEGY AND STREET LIGHTING POLICY
REPORT OF:	NICOLA BUTTERWORTH, DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of the report is to present to the committee a proposal to approve and adopt the 2020 Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy (HIAMP), 2020 Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy (HIAMS) and 2020-2025 Street Lighting Policy. The HIAMP and HIAMS represent no change in direction from those approved by the Cabinet Member in February 2020 but have been reviewed and updated to align more closely with the Wirral Plan 2025, specifically the themes for 'Safe and Pleasant Communities' and 'Sustainable Environment'.

2020-2025 Street Lighting Policy: Effective street lighting has a positive effect on the ambiance of a place and improves an area's reputation, especially in terms of enhancing the night-time economy. Street lighting also plays a part in reducing crime and fear of crime and contributes towards enhanced street environment and good quality of place, encouraging walking, cycling and public transport use. Lighting equipment provided should be suitable for fulfilling the lighting needs in each specific area. The main consideration is the ability of the lighting to illuminate the area in the most effective manner.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

This decision is a key decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the report and endorse the authority's approach to the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management.
2. Approve the draft Wirral 2020 HIAMP, 2020 HIAMS and 2020-2025 Street Lighting Policy and authorise the Director to make any further amendments that the Director considers will correct errors and omissions or will otherwise aid in the operation of the policy in consultation with the Chair and Spokespersons of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To obtain the full funding available through the Department for Transport (DfT) Incentive Fund, it is necessary to update the HIAMP and HIAMS to reflect the implementation of the Wirral Plan 2025.
- 1.2 The 2020-2025 Street Lighting Policy has been compiled to offer guidance to stakeholders about all remits of our Street Lighting service over the next 5 years, ensuring provision of a robust, sustainable, and fit for purpose lighting service across the whole borough as well as helping to meet our statutory obligations and duty of care.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Not updating the existing HIAM policy and strategy was considered, however, this would fail to meet the DfT Incentive Fund requirements and was therefore rejected.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In January 2020 the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport approved the HIAMP and HIAMS developed during a review of highways asset management. The 2020 HIAM Policy and Strategy have been further updated to align more closely with the Wirral 2025 plan. The documents represent a continuation of the Policy and Strategy approved in February 2020 but the commitment to sustainability and social value have been strengthened.
- 3.2 In December 2014, the Government announced that £6 billion was being made available between 2015/16 and 2020/21 for local highways maintenance capital funding. From that funding, £578 million has been set aside for an Incentive Fund scheme, to reward councils who demonstrate through the self-assessment process they are delivering value for money in carrying out cost effective highway asset management.
- 3.3 As a member of the Liverpool City Region (LCR), Wirral Council has automatically received the full available funding since the Incentive Fund began in 2015/16. The period of grace provided by LCR membership is due to end in 2020/21. To maintain the current allocation from the Incentive Fund, Wirral must demonstrate it is operating as a high performing (Band 3) authority with respect to Highways Asset Management.
- 3.4 The approval and implementation of a dedicated street lighting policy ensures that the management of lighting assets adheres to the Code of Practice – Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure (2016), while also communicating to stakeholders how we will provide a sustainable, safe, and fit for purpose lighting asset.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Under the funding scale established by the Department of Transport in 2015/16, Band 3 authorities will receive 100% of available funds, Band 2 authorities will be eligible for 30% of the funding, while Band 1 authorities will receive no funding.
- 4.2 In 2020/21 as a Band 3 authority through the LCR Wirral Council received £554,000 from the DfT Incentive Fund. Band 2 authorities received £166,000.
- 4.3 There are no additional implications for funding of works associated with the strategy. However, the strategy promotes the most efficient management of highway assets over the whole lifecycle and as such future Invest to Save opportunities may be identified during lifecycle modelling.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The maintenance of highways is a statutory duty for the Council under the Highways Act 1980 (as amended).

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 The proposed policies and strategy will be implemented by existing staffing and suppliers as part of their normal duties. There are no resource implications.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 Failure to develop an asset management approach for highway infrastructure will result in a reduction in funding through the DfT Incentive Fund and reputational damage with partners in the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, and may result in a greater demand on the Council's Capital programme..
- 7.2 Failure to have a streetlight policy could lead to a loss in reputation and customer dissatisfaction.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Authorities in Liverpool City Region have been engaged throughout the review process, via an Asset Management working group. The Council has worked with Essency Consulting who have been supporting other City Region partners in the development of their HIAM strategies.
- 8.2 Development of the strategy and policy documents has taken account of customer and stakeholder feedback received as part of our operational service delivery and national customer satisfaction surveys.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report, however any associated actions may need an EIA and this will be completed where appropriate.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The HIAM policy and strategy reinforce the existing commitment to utilise the most sustainable interventions and resources throughout an asset's lifecycle with the aim of reducing, and where possible mitigating, environmental impacts. Such methods may include the recycling of waste materials and use of recycled material, both in the office and on site, encouraging environmentally friendly methods of transport, such as bicycle and on foot, a reduction in hard verges and the preservation of highway trees.
- 10.2 The street lighting asset maintained by Wirral Council is currently being improved by the introduction of LED across the whole of the borough, which will have significant financial and environmental benefits. The modernisation of our lighting asset will also have a beneficial effect on the environment by bringing about a reduction in 'sky glow' and other forms of light pollution as well as indirect beneficial effects by potentially reducing congestion through increased use of sustainable active travel. It has been estimated that 35% to 50% of all light pollution is caused by roadway lighting. Increased awareness of environmental impact means that our current LED project on completion, along with operational trimming of switch on/off times and dimming capabilities will reduce our greenhouse gas output by as much as 1,346.34 tonnes per annum as well as our overall energy consumption reduction of up to 4,414,240 kWh per annum, based on current rates of consumption.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A - 2020 Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy

APPENDIX B - 2020 Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy

APPENDIX C - 2020-2025 Streetlighting Policy

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Wirral 2025 Plan

www.gov.uk/government/publications/highways-maintenance-funding-incentive-element

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet Member Decision - Community Services	21 February 2020.