



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council

# Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy

September 2024

<b>HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY</b>	
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## **Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy**

### **The Policy**

The principle of Highway Infrastructure Asset Management is an approved policy within the Darlington Transport Plan 2022-2030 and has 5 objectives of:

1. Reduce transport's impact on the environment and support health and wellbeing
2. Improve safety for all road users
3. Connect people with job and training opportunities and link communities
4. Support a revitalised and transformed Darlington Town Centre
5. Maintain and effectively manage a resilient transport system

Objective 5: To maintain and effectively manage a resilient transport system a structured approach to maintenance of the transport asset as a fundamental principal for national and local economic prosperity and the public's quality of life.

It is important we ensure our transport network can operate effectively and is resilient we must ensure we maintain and manage it effectively on a daily basis and look to improve in the longer term.

To ensure a resilient network we need to maintain, manage and improve

As a Highway Authority Darlington Borough Council is responsible for the maintenance of the Highway network of 574km and its associated assets such as roads, footways, bridges, street lighting etc

The council is committed to providing the most cost effective methods to maintain its network in a safe condition for the highway user. The object of maintenance is to intervene with planned preventative maintenance programmes of work with the right product at the right time. This preventative course of action will ensure the most cost effective and efficient programme is delivered for all road users.

Adopting sound asset management principles as set out in the HMEP '*Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Guidance*' maximises the benefits of financial efficiencies, improved accountability and stewardship of the asset, better value for money and improved customer service.

The analysis involved in this process has been used to inform the priorities for the delivery of the policies through implementation plans that are tailored to the funding timescales.

## **Policy Statement**

Roads (and their associated infrastructure) facilitate the transport of people and goods, provide access to homes, businesses and other destinations, and provide public space where people shop, socialise or relax.

Darlington's Transport Plan sets out a transport strategy for the next 8 years (2022-2030) to support the delivery of Darlington's Council Plan 2024 -2027

Darlington's Council Plan 2024 -2027 has a vision for the Borough to be one of the best places to live, learn, work and invest in the UK, with strong and sustainable economy, healthy communities and opportunities for all, whilst integrating 6 key Priorities:

1. Economy: A strong sustainable economy and highly skilled workforce.
2. Homes: Affordable and secure homes.
3. Living Well: A healthier and better quality of life.
4. Children and Young People: Releasing potential and raising aspirations
5. Communities: Safer, healthier and more engaged.
6. Local Environment: A well connected and sustainable borough

Darlington is a thriving borough known for our railway heritage and our mix of urban and rural communities. We are the transport gateway into the region, with a vibrant family friendly town centre and growing economy. Our town centre is a destination for events and experiences alongside a growing independent retail offer. Our access to nature, parks and green spaces is often recognized as a big contributor to making Darlington a great place to live and work.

Working with TVCA, service operators and residents, the council will deliver good and affordable transport, infrastructure and digital connectivity that enables safe travel, exercise and access to employment and education. Investing in our heritage and culture is important in preserving the identity of our communities, delivering regeneration and economic impact.

Updating our planning documents will ensure that future developments are sustainable and positively impact our local environment. We will also continue to work with residents and other partners to protect and enhance our borough's parks and open spaces. The following key actions are focused on delivering these core foundations.

### Key Deliverables for the Priority 6 Local Environment

1. Enable improvements in transport systems by working in partnership with TVCA and public transport operators to deliver the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement programme and the improvement of bus facilities and reliability of services.
2. Work with local stakeholders and businesses to promote a diverse and accessible programme of events that maximises footfall in the town centre and has a positive impact on the local economy.
3. Introduce food waste collections and support residents to increase overall recycling rates to move towards the national average.

4. Celebrate the opening of Hopetown and deliver a successful 2025 festival programme that helps to promote Darlington as a destination for visitors and investment.
5. Work with statutory bodies to progress studies of flood risk in Darlington and access funding to mitigate the impact of climate change.
6. Deliver revised supplementary planning documents that guide better design in new developments and contribute to a sense of pride in place.

To support these key deliverables highway asset management needs to be data driven. With the appropriate IT systems and Condition data surveys recently commissioned, the Council can provide the most optimum levels of planned maintenance activities over the lifecycle of all asset types.

Enabling the effective coordination of works to reduce road closures and their impacts, as well as providing maximum network availability and reliability, which is supported by the forward visibility of planned maintenance works.

### **Scope**

The provisions of this policy will apply to all staff directly employed by Darlington Borough Council responsible in the planning and delivering of highway and transport related services and asset management.