

Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy

May 2019

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Staffordshire County Council is responsible for a highway network and associated infrastructure. It enables the county to prosper and achieve its objectives. The highway network is the largest and most visible asset for which the County Council is responsible and is valued at over £7 billion. The way it is managed and maintained has a direct impact on the County Councils' ability to deliver the vision of 'a connected Staffordshire, where everyone has opportunity to prosper, be healthy and happy'.

The County Council recognise the important role that the highway network plays in keeping people and places connected. Keeping the highway network in a good condition is important to support economic growth and a good quality of life for residents, visitors and business.

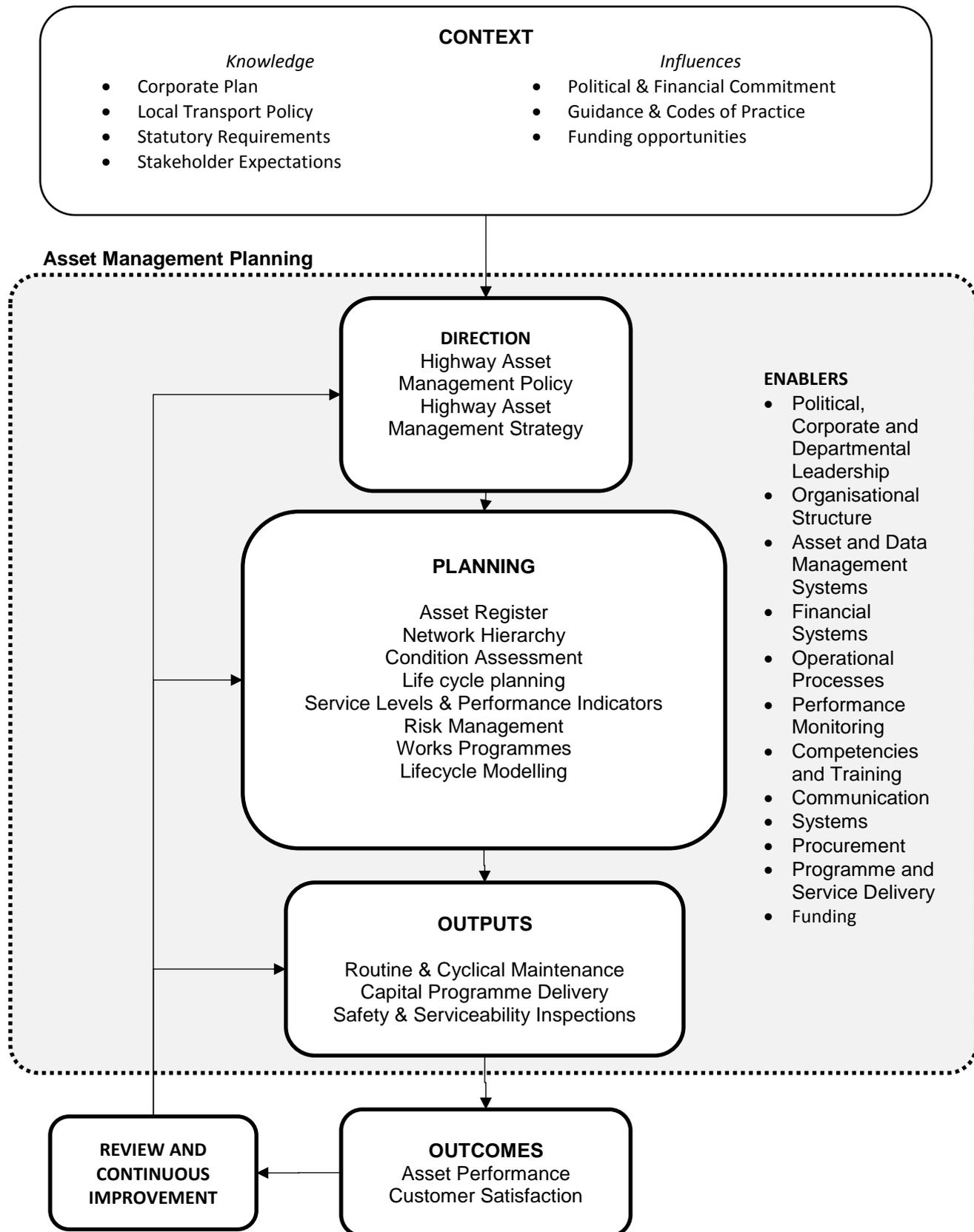
In difficult and challenging times, managing the work to get the required outcomes with increased demand and greater prioritisation of local authority funding has never been more important. The County Council is committed to making the best use of its resources and an asset management approach should be taken with regards to highway maintenance activities, having regard to the available revenue budget, current and projected financial pressures and stakeholder needs.

The Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy and Strategy have been developed to help support these challenges. The policy is designed to drive continuous improvement in the way the highway network is maintained to ensure it continues to be safe, serviceable and sustainable.

The Highway Asset Management Framework

The County Council continues to review its approach to highway asset management in the light of the Highway Management Efficiency Programme (HMEP) guidance and as a result has developed a Highway Asset Management Framework which brings together the core elements of asset management. This framework places our approach in context, identifying the enablers that support asset management and the elements of asset management planning and delivery that contribute to our asset management approach.

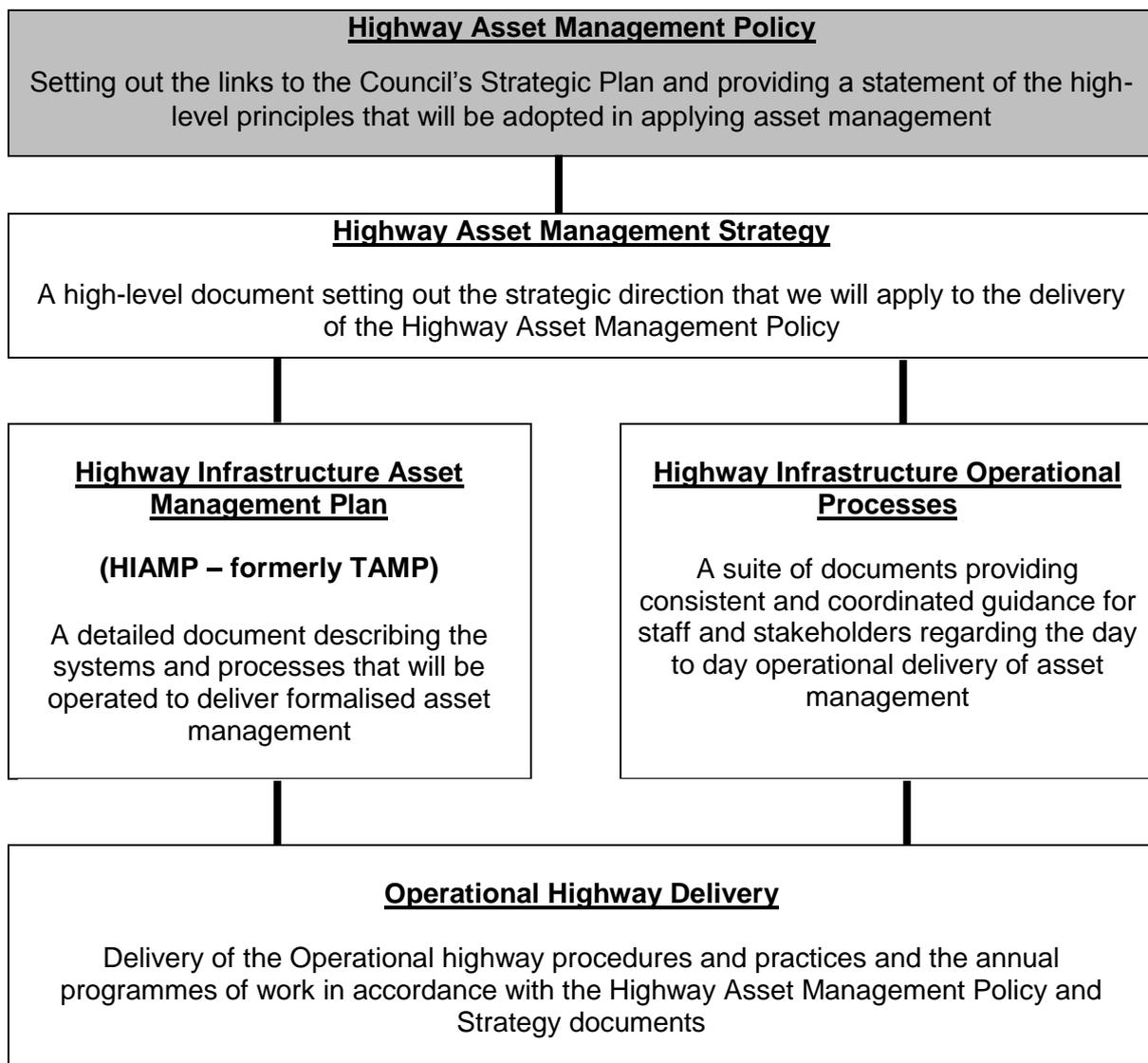
Asset Management Framework



The Document Framework

This policy and the associated Highway Asset Management Strategy document have been developed in accordance with the best practice principles set out in the Highway Maintenance Efficiency Programme (HMEP), Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Guidance Document (May 2013) and the new Code of Practice “Well-managed Highway Infrastructure” (October 2016)

The diagram below shows the framework within which these documents will combine to steer the development of a new Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (HIAMP) to replace the current Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP) and a suite of Operational Highway Processes which in turn will guide the delivery of asset management strategy across the network.



This policy and its 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. It will allow better informed decisions to be made about the investment choices required to effectively maintain the whole network, both in the short and the long-term and directly supports the strategic aims and it aligns the County Council's approach to managing network condition with the principles set out in the national Code of Practice "Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure" and supports its statutory duty to maintain the highway through compliance with section 41 of the Highways Act (1980).

How this Policy Supports the County Council's Strategic Aims

The information provided in this policy will inform us to make more proactive decisions to ensure that the standard of highway assets meets the needs of our customers both now and just as importantly for the next generation. The policy supports the three commissioning priorities that relate to highways through the following:

Feel safer, happier and more supported in their community

Staffordshire County Council and its supply chain partners will continue to make Staffordshire a great place to live through the implementation of the HIAMP, implementing asset management principles to deliver a safe network, increased efficiency and lead innovation in highway maintenance. We will continue our drive to reduce the impact of highway operations on the environment and communities, primarily through the utilisations of recycled materials and reducing energy consumption.

Be able to access more good jobs and feel the benefits of economic growth

Through the delivery of the HIAMP we will implement asset management best practice to optimise highway investment nurturing the right transport conditions for business growth. Through innovation in network management we will reduce the negative impact of highway works on travelling stakeholders; hence helping to improve business efficiency.

Be healthier and more independent

The continuing implementation of preventive principles will further embed resilience into the highway network, helping to deal with unforeseen events. Community self-help groups will be further developed to increase community resilience in times of extreme weather.

HIAMP Enablement

The HIAMP is enabled through a number of models which include the innovative Infrastructure+ Strategic Highway Partnership (I+), Highway Lighting Staffordshire Public Finance Initiative (PFI) and internal service delivery mechanisms. Figure 1 describes how the the various service areas link to the corporate vision.

Policy Review

This policy is closely aligned to other developing policy documents, particularly the Network Management Plan. It will require regular review and sense-checking while these documents are in development.

Thereafter it will be reviewed at least every three years or earlier if there are significant changes in national policy or guidance that affects asset management.

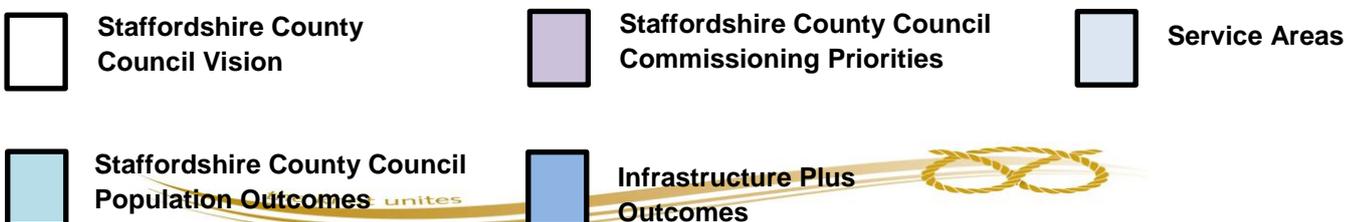
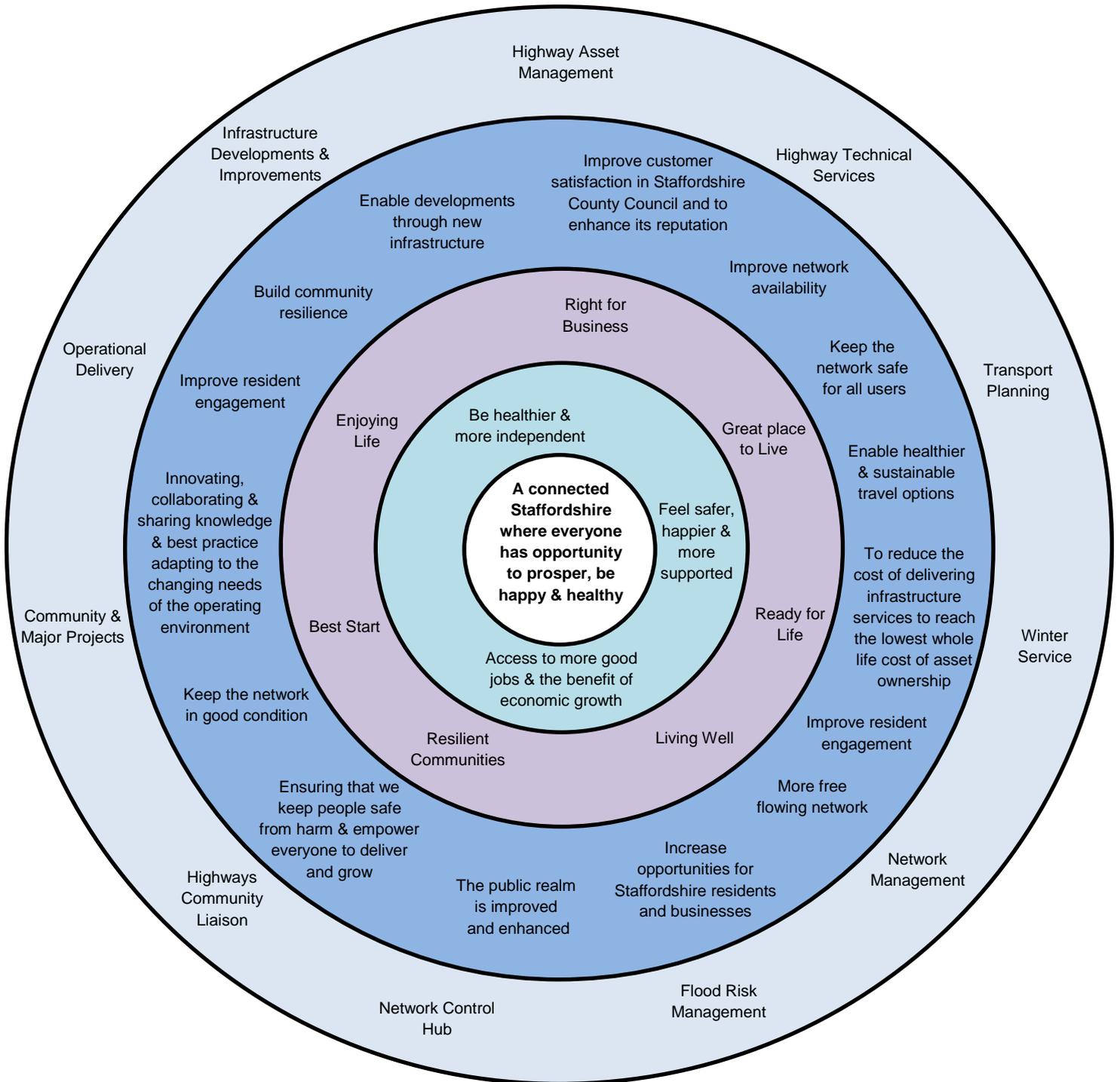


Figure 1. Vision, Priority and Outcome Linkages