Executive Summary

The Highways Asset Management Framework is intended to be an overarching document that provides a framework for highway asset management in Lancashire. It clearly sets out what highway asset management means to the County Council and outlines the procedures, processes and systems in place, or that it is intended to adopt, to help ensure that Lancashire’s highway and transport assets are maintained in a condition that is considered fit and safe for reasonable use. It also attempts to explain what is reasonable to achieve with the resources available and sets out in a transparent manner how they will be utilised in the most effective manner.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport is recommended to approve, for adoption, the Highways Asset Management Framework as set out at Appendix ‘A’.

Background and Advice

Lancashire’s transport infrastructure assets are the most valuable publicly owned resource managed by the County Council, with a combined estimated value of over £10 billion as at June 2015. These assets are fundamental in helping the citizens of Lancashire to not only access a range of County Council services, but also take advantage of the wide range of economic, health, social and recreational opportunities that are available to them. Without this infrastructure Lancashire would not function as a place to live, work or visit.
Given the importance that our transport infrastructure plays in our everyday lives it is vital there are plans in place in order to manage and maintain the highway network in such a condition that it can be fully exploited by a variety of users for a variety of purposes as outlined above.

This Highways Asset Management Framework is intended to be an overarching document that provides a framework for highway asset management in Lancashire. It clearly sets out what highway asset management means to us and outlines the procedures, processes and systems we have, or intend to put in place, to help us ensure that our highway and transport assets are maintained in a condition that is considered fit and safe for reasonable use. It also attempts to explain what we are able to achieve with the limited resources available to us and sets out in a transparent manner how we intend to utilise these resources in the most effective manner.

**Consultations**

The County Council's Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy Board has been consulted and supports the Framework.

**Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

**Risk management**

Adoption of the Highways Asset Management Framework will contribute to the Authority aiming to achieve Band 3 of the Department for Transport Highways Maintenance Capital Funding Self-Assessment, which is the optimal funding that can be secured. Not adopting the Framework would mean that the Authority would not achieve band 3 and may not achieve Band 2 so substantially reducing the funding received for highway maintenance.

**Financial**

The Department for Transport Highways Maintenance Capital Funding Self-Assessment Guidance identifies the criteria by which Highway Authorities will be assessed to determine the level of highways maintenance capital funding up to 2020/21. Authorities will be placed in 1 of 3 bands. Authorities in Band 3 will receive 100% funding with Band 2 receiving 90% in 2017/18 reducing to 30% in 2020/21 and Band 1 receiving 60% in 2017/18 reducing to 0% in 2020/21. Having an overarching Highways Asset Management Framework is essential to Lancashire achieving a minimum of Band 2 and potentially Band 3, the optimal funding available.

**Legal**

Not securing the Department for Transport funding would prejudice Lancashire County Council's ability to carry out its statutory functions.
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A