

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 2 September 2021

Report of the Head of Service - Asset Management

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Transport Asset Management Plan Phase 2 Data Refresh 2021

(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

Contact for further information:

Paul Binks, Tel: (01772) 532210, Highways Asset Manager

paul.binks@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

The Transport Asset Management Plan 2015 - 2030 was approved by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport on 10 June 2014 and identified the key strategic priorities of the county council.

It is proposed to publish a review of the progress made during year 1 of Phase 2 of the Transport Asset Management Plan and refresh the Data to show the latest condition of our assets and progress in a number of key areas in highway asset management over the past 12 months and to use the Data in the delivery of the Transport Asset Management Plan.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Note the update on progress outlined in the Transport Asset Management Phase 2 - Data Refresh 2021 as set out at Appendix 'A';
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Strategy and Performance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, to approve and publish the full and final version of the 'Transport Asset Management Plan Phase 2 Data Refresh 2021';
- (iii) Support the use of the data for lifecycle modelling and allocation of funds in line with the Transport Asset Management Plan principles in the development of the 2022\23 capital programme, which will be presented to Cabinet in March 2022; and
- (iv) Support the continued monitoring of performance against the standards set.

Background and Advice

Phase 2 of the Transport Asset Management Plan started in April 2020 and runs until March 2025. Using the condition of the assets at the end of Phase 1, along with results of Lifecycle Modelling, the original Transport Asset Management assumptions have been reviewed and have been used to produce revised standards and funding proposals for the period 2020/21 to 2024/25. The approach was approved by Cabinet in December 2020 and the Transport Asset Management Phase 2 document was published in March 2021.

The Data Refresh 2021, as with previous years, presents the asset condition and update on other Transport Asset Management related aspects as highlighted below.

Good progress continues to be made in respect of the condition of the A, B and C road networks, and they have exceeded the standards set for the end of Phase 2.

For the first time the condition of the Unclassified road network, which is the focus of Phase 2 of the Transport Asset Management, is presented, shows there is a substantial backlog, and provisional Service Standards are set.

Street Lighting column replacement and Traffic Signal replacement continue to be managed through a targeted risk-based approach to deal with the highest risk assets, however the stock continues to age.

Bridge condition is shown for the first time, broken down by maintenance category.

More detail is set out in the report at Appendix 'A'. Appendix 'B' contains the detailed definitions of the condition measures.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Financial Risks

Not reviewing progress in year within Phase 2 would lead to inefficiencies in the allocation of capital funds, increased costs due to preventative maintenance not being undertaken at the correct stage in the life cycle of the asset and anticipated asset condition deterioration.

The Transport Asset Management Plan is a key document setting out the strategic intent of the council for investment in its highway assets. Such a document underpins the self-assessment, which Highway Authorities are required to submit to the Department for Transport annually, and is considered by the Department for

Transport as a corner stone of good asset management approach and is one of the 3 essential areas without evidence of which it is not possible to achieve Band 3 status and benefit from Challenge Fund and other grant funding streams.

The Data Refresh 2021 document provides necessary supporting evidence for several areas of the Department for Transport Self-Assessment including Lifecycle Planning and Communication, the other two essential areas, as well as, the performance management. It shows that the authority seeks to avoid using outdated condition information and is being open and transparent in communicating performance with stakeholder. Not doing so would result in the county council failing to achieve a band 3 ranking which in turn would reduce the level of funding received from the Department for Transport by approximately £2.707m per annum.

Phase 2 of the Transport Asset Management Plan will need to take into account the Capital Strategy 2020 and subsequent updates and fit within the financial envelopes available, to ensure the overall capital strategy is deliverable and sustainable.

Legal

The Transport Asset Management Plan is an important document explaining and justifying work done and expectations. That it and the data is reviewed and updated is important and it informs the authority's position with regard to challenges and priorities.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A