

TORFAEN COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

HIGHWAY ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019 - 2025

Executive Summary



1 Executive Summary

1.1 Highway asset management is defined as:

“A strategic approach that identifies the optimal allocation of resources for the management, operation, preservation and enhancement of the highway infrastructure to meet the needs of current and future customers”^[1]

The adoption of an asset management approach is now deemed by Welsh Government as a proven means to demonstrate effective husbandry of the highway network by providing significant financial understanding.^[2] This strategy records and reports how Torfaen County Borough Council will adopt and use these principles to manage the public highway assets.

This Strategy commits Torfaen County Borough Council to:

- a. Affordable Standards; the strategy establishes standards that can be afforded with current budgets and communicates them to the public and other users such that they know what service to expect.
- b. Long Term Planning; the strategy enables the medium term (10 year) and long term (20 year) time periods to ensure the correct balance of short term fixes, preventative actions and replacement of aged assets.
- c. Budget Allocation; the strategy requires data to be collected about the highway assets that will enable informed decisions to be made about how best to spend the available budgets.
- d. Managing Risk; the strategy requires the analysis of asset data to gauge and manage the risk associated with any decisions resulting from the strategy.

1.2 The implementation of the strategy will support:

1. The introduction of Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) and specifically the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Transport Asset Code.

2. The continuing desire by Welsh Government to see Authorities use asset management for highways, to realise and demonstrate the associated cost benefits and transparent governance of the assets associated with the road network.
 3. The need to manage increasing budget pressures resulting from the national and local financial position.
 4. The agreed aims of Torfaen County Borough Council's Corporate Plan 3 2016-2021 - 'Using resources wisely, to include maintaining the highway infrastructure and reducing energy consumption and waste,' - this infers the requirement under the Highways Act 1980 to maintain the highway in a safe condition for users, and also reflects the drive to manage the asset both economically, ecologically or environmentally.
- 1.3 The extent of the adopted highway is held by Torfaen County Borough Council, and the highway asset is any structure, system, construction or land associated with the adopted highway.

As of April 2018 the Council, in its role as Highway Authority, have assets made up of the following major asset groups:

- A. 442 Km of carriageway,
- B. 633 Km of footway,
- C. 173 bridges of which 12 are currently weight restricted,
- D. 109 culverts of diameter between 0.8m and 1.5m, 27 subways
- E. 13601 streetlights, of which 7062 are fully lit, 4697 are lit between the hours of dusk and midnight and then 05:00 a.m. and dawn and 1842 are not currently illuminated,
- F. 47 sets of traffic signals, (including Pelican, Puffin and Toucan crossings),
- G. 1342 Illuminated traffic signs and bollards,
- H. Approximately 5000 non-illuminated traffic signs. However, it has been deemed that a survey of these is not cost effective at present, but will form part of the improvement actions considered by this Plan.

I. 17300 road gullies,

J. Approximately 350 Km of dedicated highway drainage pipes. However, it has been deemed that a survey of these is not cost effective at present, but will form part of the improvement actions considered by this strategy.

Note: The HAMP relates only to the Council's obligations as a Highway Authority and therefore only includes those assets on the publically adopted highway. Private streets and roads transferred to social landlords are not included the extents of the adopted highway are available via the Council's web site.

- 1.4 Torfaen County Borough Council as a landowner is responsible for assets that are not classed as adopted highway, such as Council owned streets and footways, and will maintain these in a safe state, as required by legislation or judicial precedent, however, this may be below the level of service afforded to the adopted highway network.
- 1.5 Additions to the overall highway asset due to new construction in Torfaen have been small since 2003 with the length of the adopted network increasing from 427.5 Km to 441.9 Km in 2018, however, several large developments are about to come on-line in the next 5 years which will result in significant additions to all highway maintained assets. With the exception of street furniture and unlit traffic signage asset data coverage is very good for all categories and this is not expected to have a major impact on the highway asset as a whole.
- 1.6 Torfaen County Borough Council's current Local Development Plan states that the highway network was expected to increase by an additional 2 – 4% over the life time of the Plan. TCBC Forward Planning Department is updating the LDP with this update and it is expected that highway growth will be in line with the current projections.
- 1.7 The Department for Transport (DfT) carry out surveys to identify total number of miles travelled by vehicles broken down by type and region; these are then extrapolated using known growth factors to give figures for each category in five year intervals. The current Road Transport Forecast 2011 only report total number of miles driven in Wales, however, based on the minimal increase in network length, a useful relationship between any additional mileage and carriageway usage can be postulated.

- 1.8 As the carriageway asset has the largest Gross Replacement Cost (GRP) of any asset that TCBC manage then any increase in degradation due to increased in traffic use will have a significant impact on the HAMP. The current survey for all traffic in the 'Other Urban' and 'Rural' categories, (those that match the profile of Torfaen's network) is:

Department for Transport Road Traffic Estimates – Wales (billion miles)

	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Car	12.3	12.4	13.7	14.6	15.4
Light Goods Vehicle	2.2	2.6	3.0	3.5	3.9
Rigid Heavy Goods Vehicle	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Articulated Heavy Goods Vehicle	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Passenger Service Vehicle	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
All Traffic	15.3	15.9	17.6	19.1	20.3
% Increase	Base-line	3.92%	15.03%	24.84%	32.68%

- 1.9 Therefore it can be argued that by 2020 as there will be approximately 15% more miles travelled by vehicles in Torfaen, there will be a linked increase in the degradation of the carriageways, i.e. more potholes, more route Kms falling below the accepted standard of maintenance.
- 1.10 All public enquiries or complaints that are highway related are dealt with by either the Council's customer call centre or Corporate Communications Section. These include contacts using telephone, e-mail or social media platforms and face-to-face and are recorded and logged onto a database, (currently Mayrise), and these are electronically transferred to the relevant sections and officers for action or comment. This flow of information is

analysed to ensure that all communications are within the Council's targets for dealing with such interactions.

- 1.11 As part of the highway asset management process, TCBC will consult the general public on general highway related matters via the Council's 'Your Say' area of its web-site. It is proposed that this is carried out bi-annually from 2013/14. The survey will ask the same questions so that customer trends and satisfaction rates can be assessed.