

Policy for Highways Asset Management

September 2026



Our approach to highway asset management

Well-managed highway infrastructure is essential to Portsmouth's economy, communities and quality of life, supporting safe, reliable and efficient movement for all users.

Our approach will ensure that available resources are targeted where they deliver the greatest value for money, long-term asset protection and benefit to Portsmouth's residents, businesses and visitors.

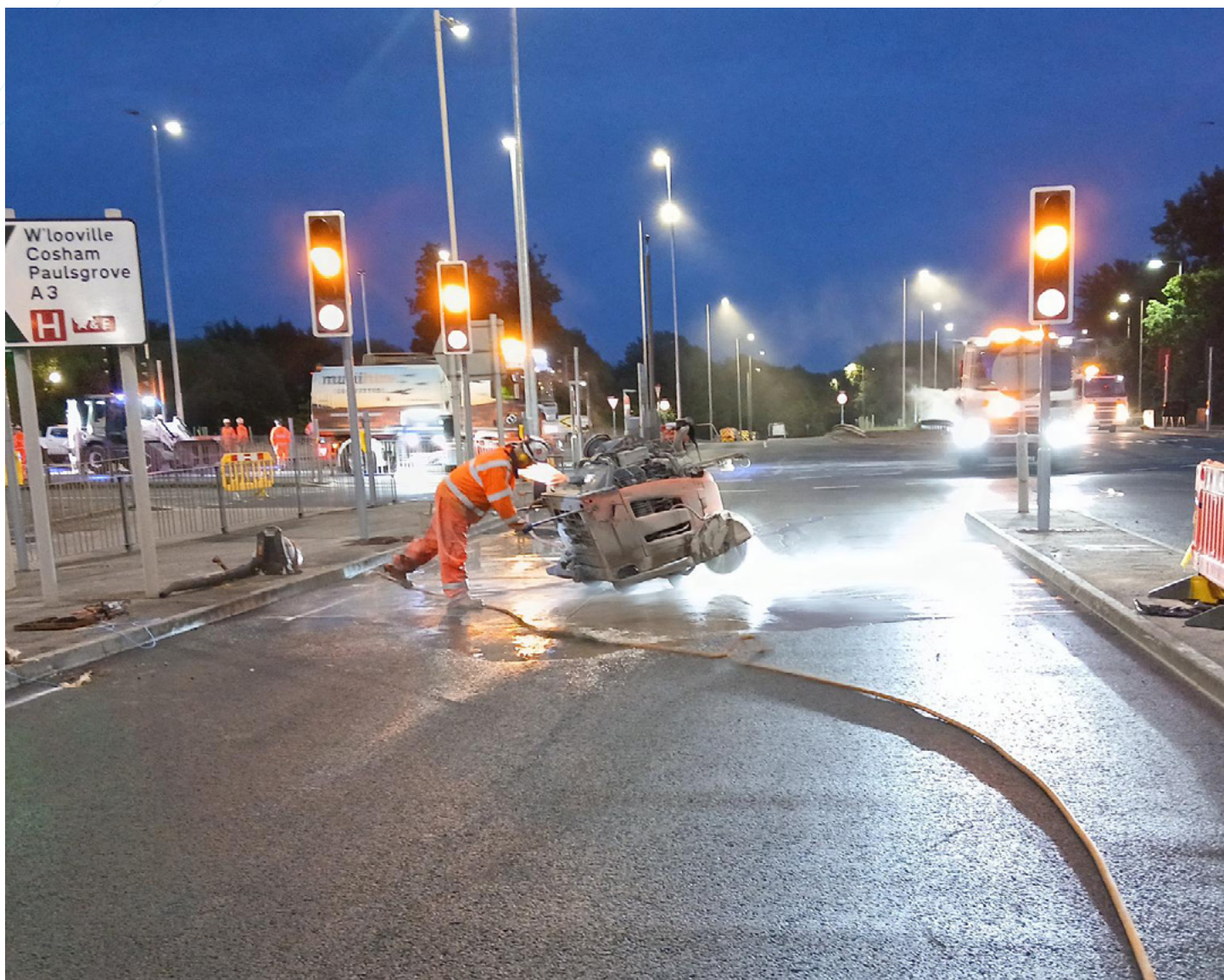
Portsmouth's highway network provides access to employment, education, training, health care, retail, leisure and other essential services. Maintaining and improving this access through effective highway asset management supports the delivery of Portsmouth City Council's current Corporate Plan, [Imagine Portsmouth 2040](#) and the [Local Transport Plan 4: Portsmouth Transport Strategy](#).

Portsmouth City Council will manage its highway infrastructure through a risk-based, whole-life asset management approach that supports a safe, reliable, resilient and accessible network for all users. Decisions on maintenance, renewal and investment will be informed by

asset condition, service risk, lifecycle cost, statutory duties and long-term value. The Council will prioritise evidence-led interventions that protect critical highway assets, support efficient movement across the city and wider sub-region, and enable sustainable transport choices. This approach will help ensure that Portsmouth's highway infrastructure remains safe, serviceable and fit for purpose, while supporting the city's economy, communities, environment and long-term resilience.

This policy shall be delivered through a co-ordinated end-to-end asset management system that aligns with our Highways Asset Management Strategy and Council Vision.





HIGHWAY PARTNERS

The City Council entered a 25-year Highways Maintenance PFI Contract in 2004 with Ensign Highways Ltd (the Service Company). This agreement included a 5-year Core Investment period (CIP) between 2004 and 2009 of £70m to bring the City Council's Highways assets up to a standard based on the Core Service Requirements and Service Performance Standards as set out in the Contract.

The Service as detailed within the Contract included CIP, the ongoing maintenance and Life Cycle Replacement (LCR) for the next 20 years following CIP. The Service company must ensure that the assets in question

achieve the required Performance level for this fixed priced contract. Therefore, the Service Company are incentivised to adopt an Asset Management plan that enables them to maintain these assets for the longest possible duration by adopting an optimum cost model.

This Contract expires in March 2030. The final years and the expiry process will be essential in ensuring the City's future wellbeing and to supporting its effective and efficient integration into the new governmental structures arising from the creation of the Mayoralty and the new South East Hampshire Council.

THE FOLLOWING FOUR AIMS UNDERPIN PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL'S HIGHWAY ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Aim 1: Safe Travel

Maintain and manage Portsmouth's highway infrastructure using a robust asset management approach that ensures safe, reliable, resilient and accessible travel for all users.

Through whole-life asset planning, targeted investment and risk-based decision making, the Council will support efficient movement throughout the city and wider sub-region, enable sustainable transport choices and protect long-term asset value.

Our asset management approach will ensure that roads, footways, cycle routes, structures, drainage, lighting and associated highway assets are maintained in a way that supports safe and dependable movement across the network. Investment will be prioritised according to condition, safety, risk, asset criticality and long-term value, ensuring that the right intervention is delivered at the right time.

Aim 2: Green City, Healthy and Happy City

Portsmouth City Council will manage highway assets in a way that supports the city's environmental, health and wellbeing priorities while protecting the long-term condition and value of the highway network.

Maintenance, renewal and investment decisions will consider whole-life carbon, climate resilience, sustainable materials, drainage performance, biodiversity opportunities and encourage people to choose to walk, cycle or use public transport and generally support a people-centred, pleasant public realm.

Through evidence-led asset planning, the Council will seek to reduce avoidable deterioration, minimise disruption, and make best use of available resources. This approach will support a greener, healthier and more resilient city by ensuring that highway infrastructure is safe, serviceable and capable of supporting sustainable travel choices over the long term.



Aim 3: Support Businesses and Protect our Assets

Portsmouth's highway infrastructure plays a critical role in supporting the local economy, enabling access to employment, education, services, key regeneration areas, businesses, Portsmouth International Port and His Majesty's Naval Base, all of which are vital to the city's economic prosperity, strategic importance and national resilience.

The Council will use a risk-based asset management approach to protect critical routes and highway assets, maintain network reliability, and reduce the economic impact of asset deterioration, congestion and unplanned disruption. Investment will be targeted where it delivers the greatest long-term value, supports the efficient movement of people and goods, and sustains access to strategic economic hubs.

Through our asset management approach, we will give particular consideration to the operational needs of Portsmouth International Port, His Majesty's Naval Base and the city's business community, recognising their importance as key stakeholders and major contributors to economic growth, employment and investment.

By maintaining highway assets in a planned and sustainable way, the Council will support economic prosperity, facilitate regeneration, and create the conditions for businesses, communities and local people to thrive. We will minimise disruption during maintenance and capital works, support regeneration and development through infrastructure provision, and proactively seek to secure sustainable funding and resources to ensure the long-term maintenance, resilience and performance of Portsmouth's highway network.

Aim 4: Support a People-Centred and Accessible Network

Infrastructure will be managed to ensure it supports safe, inclusive and accessible movement for all users, prioritising sustainable modes of transport.

The Council will manage highway assets to support a safe, inclusive and accessible network for all users, including pedestrians, cyclists, public transport users, mobility-impaired users, businesses, residents and visitors. Asset management decisions will consider safety, accessibility, equality, asset condition, network hierarchy and the needs of vulnerable users.

Maintenance and renewal activities will seek to preserve and improve the usability of roads, footways, cycle infrastructure, crossings, lighting, drainage, structures and other highway assets. By applying a whole-life, risk-based approach, the Council will support a highway network that is safe, connected, understandable and accessible, while ensuring investment decisions protect long-term asset value and support inclusive movement across the city.



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