

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council - Integrated Impact Assessment

All decisions, policy reviews or policy implementation will now require a completed Integrated Impact Assessment.

- Section 1-Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011
- Section 2-Socio-economic Duty – Sections 1 to 3 of the Equality Act 2010
- Section 3-Corporate Plan
- Section 4-Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Section 5-Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
- Section 6-Children’s Right “The Right Way”
- Section 7-Community Safety
- Section 8 Armed Forces
- Section 9-Data
- Section 10-Consultations Statutory Consultation Doctrine of Legitimate Expectation and Gunning Principles
- Section 11-Monitoring
- Section 12-Decision of proposal

Lead Officer	Head of Service	Service Area & Department	Date
David Watkins	Clive Rogers	Highways – Neighbourhood Services (Community Services)	01/06/23

Briefly outline the proposal indicating what change or decision is to be made, also provide any documentation that may be used to support this.

What is the proposal that needs to be assessed?

The proposal is to adopt a new Highways Asset Maintenance Plan (HAMP) for the Council.

The purpose of the new Highways Asset Maintenance Plan is to enable the Council to comply with the *Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure Code of Practice* published by the UK Roads Liaison Group on 28 October 2016 it has derived from the County Surveyors Society Wales (CSSW) working group. CSSW carried out consultation with Insurance Companies, Consultants and Highway Authorities throughout Wales as part of a Wales wide project.

The *Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure Code of Practice* sets out the policy and standard for undertaking inspections of the adopted highway network. Its primary aim is to ensure that inspection, defect, and recommended repair details are correctly assessed and accurately recorded, together with subsequent details of response and repairs undertaken on the highway. The underlying principle of the code is that Highway Authorities will adopt a standard risk-based approach to asset management in accordance with local needs, priorities and affordability.

Compliance with the *Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure Code of Practice* will also provide the Council with reasonable protection from financial risk in terms of liabilities and claims, higher insurance premiums or restriction of insurance cover, and from the reputational risk of undermining of the public's perception of, and confidence in, the way in which it delivers its Services.

Section 1

Outline how the proposal will impact on any people or groups of people with protected characteristics, please refer to the Equalities Act 2010 (Wales) for further information [Equality Act 2010: guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) and the EHRC guidance [The Essential Guide to the Public Sector Equality Duty: EHRC](#)

Briefly outline below if there will be any positive or negative impacts as a result of the proposal being considered.

Protected characteristics	Will the proposal have any positive impacts on those with a protected characteristics?	Will the proposal have any negative impacts on those with a protected characteristics?	Outline how the proposal could maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impact. Please indicate any views evidence you have that supports this.
Age (<i>people of all ages</i>)	The new HAMP will result in better maintained roads, making it safer and easier for individuals to travel for work and leisure, and for families to travel and meet together.	No	As detailed within the report the HAMP will ensure for a well-maintained highways infrastructure that is safe for all to use.
Disability (<i>people with disabilities/ long term conditions</i>)	The HAMP will have a positive impact- on those who have a physical or visual impairment as it ensures that the highway infrastructure, such as footpaths/pavements, are inspected, well maintained and remain clear of any obstructions.	No	The HAMP will be subject to regular review. Each formal review will take into account any negative public responses, lessons learnt, improvement opportunities and any innovative techniques available to strengthen the HAMP.
Gender Reassignment (<i>anybody who's gender identity or gender expression is</i>	As above	No	As above

<i>different to the sex they were assigned at birth)</i>			
Marriage or Civil Partnership (<i>people who are married or in a civil partnership</i>)	As above	As above	As above
Pregnancy and Maternity (<i>women who are pregnant and/or on maternity leave</i>)	As above	As above	As above
Race (<i>people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds</i>)	As above	As above	As above
Religion or Belief (<i>people with different religions and beliefs including people with no beliefs</i>)	As above	As above	As above
Sex (<i>women and men, girls and boys and those who self-identify their gender</i>)	As above	As above	As above

Sexual Orientation <i>(lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual, other)</i>	As above	As above	As above
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NOTE: Section 2 only needs to be completed if proposals are of a strategic nature or when reviewing previous strategic decisions. See page 6 of the Preparing for the Commencement of the Socio-economic Duty Welsh Government Guidance.

<p>Section 2 Socio-economic Duty (Strategic Decisions Only) <i>The Welsh Governments Socio-economic Duty provides a framework in order to ensure tackling inequality is at the forefront of decision making.</i></p>			
<p>.Please consider the below vulnerable groups and consider how the proposal could affect them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Single parents and vulnerable families ➢ People with low literacy/numeracy ➢ Pensioners ➢ Looked after children ➢ Homeless people ➢ Carers ➢ Armed Forces Community ➢ Students ➢ Single adult households ➢ People misusing substances ➢ People who have experienced the asylum system ➢ People of all ages leaving a care setting ➢ People living in the most deprived areas in Wales (WIMD) ➢ People involved in the criminal justice system 			
Socio Economic disadvantage definitions.	Will the proposal have a positive, negative or neutral impacts on the below?	How could you mitigate the negative impacts outlined?	Please highlight any evidence that has been considered.
Low Income / Income Poverty <i>(cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing, transport etc.)</i>	Neutral impact		



<p>Low and/or No Wealth (<i>enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provisions for the future</i>)</p>	<p>As above</p>		
<p>Material Deprivation (<i>unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, hobbies etc.</i>)</p>	<p>As above</p>		
<p>Area Deprivation (<i>where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of public transport) Impact on the environment?</i>)</p>	<p>The new HAMP will allow more effective management of the adopted highway network. This will result in safer access to services and improvement of the physical infrastructure to support a growing economy.</p>		
<p>Socio-economic Background <i>(social class i.e. parents education, employment and income)</i></p>	<p>As above</p>		
<p>Socio-economic Disadvantage <i>(What cumulative impact will the proposal have on people or groups because of their protected characteristic(s) or vulnerability or because they are already disadvantaged)</i></p>	<p>As above</p>		




Section 3-Corporate Plan

Please outline any Corporate Plan linkages of the proposal -[BG Corporate Plan 22-27](#)

<p>Priority 1 - Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent</p>	<p>A well-maintained highway infrastructure will provide for ease of access to local community facilities such as schools, libraries and colleges.</p>
<p>Priority 2 - Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities</p>	<p>A well-maintained highway infrastructure will reduce the need for unprogrammed and unnecessary road maintenance, allowing for free-flowing traffic, extended life of the asset and reduced cost. Planned rather than reactive response will result in a reduction in travel time and therefore vehicle emissions.</p>
<p>Priority 3 - An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place</p>	<p>As above</p>
<p>Priority 4 - Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient</p>	<p>The new HAMP will allow resources to be deployed in such a way that highway maintenance activities can be programmed, preventing deterioration of maintenance defects into safety defects thus prolonging the life of the road and facilitating safer travel. The purchase of materials can be planned more easily, reducing numbers of deliveries. Community resilience will be improved through the provision of better maintained and safer access</p>

Section 4-Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 – The Five Ways of Working (ICLIP)
Sustainable development principles. The WCFG Act requires the Council to consider how any proposal improves the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales using the five ways of working as a baseline)

Five Ways of Working	How have you used the Sustainable Development Principles in forming the proposal?
<p>Long Tern</p> 	<p>Consider the long-term impact of the proposal on the ability of communities to secure their well-being.</p> <p>The collection of pertinent data such as traffic counts and identifying trends in defect types and severity will be carried out. The impact of the HAMP will be monitored, and regular reviews will take place as this data is made available.</p> <p>The HAMP provides a risk-based approach to Highway Safety Inspections and offers an opportunity to optimise resource</p> <p>The purpose of the HAMP is to prevent longer term deterioration of the highway network through targeted inspection and maintenance regimes.</p>
<p>Prevention</p> 	<p>Consider how the proposal is preventing problems from occurring or getting worse</p> <p>The key principle of the HAMP is to implement a risk-based approach to Highway Inspection and Response</p> <p>The methodology behind the HAMP utilises data relating to the risk of damage to persons or property and recommends a way of optimising available resources that allows this to be mitigated effectively.</p> <p>The collection of pertinent data will be ongoing.</p> <p>Regular reporting will be in place to facilitate monitoring of the impact of the new HAMP.</p> <p>All data, reports and stakeholder feedback will be considered as part of regular review and revision.</p>

<p>Integration</p> 	<p>Consider how your proposal will impact on other services provided in our communities (these might be Council services or services delivered by other organisations or groups)</p> <p>By taking a risk-based approach and focussing on preventative maintenance, the HAMP will improve the condition of the adopted highway within Blaenau Gwent and impact positively on its people, economy, environment and culture.</p> <p>All data, reports and stakeholder feedback will be considered as part of regular review and revision.</p>
<p>Collaboration</p> 	<p>Consider how you are working with Council services or services delivered by other organisations or groups in our communities.</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council will continue to work with other stakeholders including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Surveyors Society Wales (CSSW) • Insurance Companies • Other Highway Authorities • Council Departments • Town and community Councils • Local community Groups <p>to implement the new HAMP successfully.</p>
<p>Involvement</p> 	<p>Consider how you involve people who have an interest in this proposal and ensure that they represent the diversity of our communities.</p> <p>Preparation of the HAMP has involved consultation with and involvement from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSSW • Insurance Section • Welsh Highway Authorities • Cabinet Member for Highways and Environmental Services • Council Members • Other affected departments within Blaenau Gwent CBC <p>It is intended in the future to communicate with local community groups and the general public in relation to the HAMP. Feedback received from stakeholders in response to the HAMP will inform review.</p>

How does your proposal link to the Welsh Governments Priorities for Wales? Please indicate below.

1. **A PROSPEROUS WALES ...** an innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

The HAMP will ensure the efficient use of public resources – both within the County Council and those of other public agencies and organisations.

The HAMP will benefit all road users, local businesses and service providers by improving the condition of the adopted highway within Blaenau Gwent and providing safe and efficient travel.

An improved highways maintenance regime will extend the life span of the assets allowing for free-flowing traffic, thus reducing the carbon footprint.

2. **A RESILIENT WALES ...** a nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change). Think about how your activity will have regard to protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

Planned Maintenance and well-maintained highways will be more energy efficient. Efficiencies and targeted response / planning will serve to reduce the impact on the environment and at all times where it is possible protect and enhance that environment.

Work programmes will be planned / programmed in a targeted and efficient manner which will reduce travel time and associated negative impacts such as CO2 emissions.

Better maintained roads will contribute towards ease of travel, reducing traffic congestion and emissions from transport and travel across the County.

3. A HEALTHIER WALES ... a society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.

The HAMP details how to manage risks which will provide a safer environment for highway users.

Highways that are in a good condition will make access to the services of the Council and other organisations that support health and wellbeing safer and easier.

Improved condition of the highway will also encourage active and leisure travel.

The Department of Transport statistics identify the road environment, including poor or defective road surface, as a contributory factor in some reported road accidents, well inspected and maintained roads will help mitigate this.

4. A MORE EQUAL WALES ... A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).

The new HAMP will benefit all age groups by improving the condition of carriageways and footways, providing a safer environment for all those who use them.

5. A WALES OF COHESIVE COMMUNITIES ... attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.

The HAMP will support the continued economic, social and cultural viability of towns and local communities across the County by allowing the Council's resources to be managed more efficiently, improving maintenance of the highway and thus providing safe access to services and opportunities.

6. A WALES OF VIBRANT CULTURE AND THRIVING ... a society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.

As above the HAMP will support the continued economic, social and cultural viability of towns and local communities across the County by allowing the Council's resources to be managed more efficiently, improving maintenance of the highway and thus providing safe access to services and opportunities.

7. **A GLOBALLY RESPONSIBLE WALES ...** a nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

Work programmes will be planned / programmed in a targeted and efficient manner which will reduce travel time and associated negative impacts such as CO2 emissions.

Better maintained roads will contribute towards ease of travel, reducing traffic congestion and emissions from transport and travel across the whole County.

Section 5-Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and Welsh Language Standards

(The Welsh Language Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards require the Council to have 'due regard' for the positive or negative impact that any proposal may have on opportunities to use the Welsh language. [Welsh Language Standards](#))



Requirement	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts in regards to the below?	What can be done to mitigate any negative impacts?	Please demonstrate any evidence used to form this opinion.
Compliance with the Welsh Language Standards. <i>Specifically Standards 88 - 93</i>	All road signage is produced bilingual.		
What opportunities are there to promote the Welsh Language? <i>e.g. status, use of Welsh language services, use of Welsh in everyday life in work / community</i>	In compliance with the Standards all signage, media, communications of events and campaigns will be bilingual		
What opportunities are there for a person or person to use the Welsh	No		

Language? e.g. staff, residents and visitors			
Has the Welsh Language been considered in order to treat the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?	No		

Section 6 – Children’s Rights Approach - [The Right Way](#)

The Children’s Rights Approach – The Right Way is a framework for working with children, grounded in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). It places the UNCRC at the core of planning and service delivery and integrates children’s rights into every aspect of decision-making, policy and practice. The Right Way focuses on three main them Participation, Provision and Protection.

Protected characteristics	Will the proposal have any positive impacts on the Children’s Rights Approach?	Will the proposal have any negative impacts on the Children’s Rights Approach?	Outline how the proposal could maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impact. Please indicate any views evidence you have that supports this.
Participation (child or young person as someone who actively contributes to society as a citizen)	None	No	

Provision (the basic rights of children and young people to survive and develop)	None	No	
Protection (children and young people are protected against exploitation, abuse or discrimination)	None	No	

Section 7– Community Safety

Duty to Consider Crime and Disorder Implications

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on the local authority to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder, anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment, the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances, re-offending and serious violence.

Impacts	Will the proposal have any positive impacts on crime and disorder?	Will the proposal have any negative impacts on crime and disorder?	Outline how the proposal could maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impact. Please indicate any views evidence you have that supports this.
Crime	A well maintained environment will have a positive impact on crime.	No	

(consider impact on each: victims, offenders and neighbourhoods)			
Anti-Social Behaviour and behaviour adversely affecting the local environment (consider impact on each: victims, offenders, neighbourhoods and green spaces)	As above	No	
Misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances (Think vulnerable children, adults, families and communities)	As above	No	
Re-offending (Think young people and adults, victims, families, communities)	As above	No	
Serious Violence (Think vulnerable young people, vulnerable adults, victims, families, communities)	As above	No	

Counter Terrorism (People and places that are vulnerable to terrorism or violent extremism)	No	No	
Community Cohesion (Asylum seekers, Migrants, Victims or Hate Crime, Community tensions)	No	No	

Section 8- Armed Forces Covenant Duty AFC Draft Statutory Guidance - Final.pdf			
Impacts	Will the proposal have any positive impacts on the armed forces community?	Will the proposal have any negative impacts on the armed forces community?	Outline how the proposal could maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impact. Please indicate any views evidence you have that supports this.
Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of services • Planning and funding • Co-operation between bodies and professionals 	The proposal will have a positive impact and support and comply with the Armed Forces Covenant to give 'Due Regard' in respect of the Armed Forces	No	

<p>These healthcare functions are within scope of the Duty in the following settings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Primary Care services, including general practice, community pharmacies, NHS dental, NHS optometry services and public health screening services. • NHS Secondary Care services, including urgent and emergency care, hospital and community services, specialist care, mental health services, and additional needs services (as applicable). • Local authority-delivered healthcare services, including sexual health services and drug and alcohol misuse services 	<p>Community and the challenges they face.</p>		
<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admissions • Educational attainment and curriculum • Child wellbeing 			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport • Attendance • Additional needs support • Use of Service Pupil Premium funding (England only) <p>These education functions are within scope of the Duty in compulsory education settings, that is, primary, secondary, and, for England only, compulsory further education. The Duty does not cover nursery (early years education), higher education, or other voluntary adult education settings</p>			
<p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocations policy for social housing • Tenancy strategies (England only) • Homelessness • Disabled Facilities Grants 			

Section 9-Data-Please outline any data or evidence that has been used to develop the proposal, this can be previous consultations, local/national data, pilot projects, reports, feedback from clients etc.		
Data/evidence –What data/evidence was used? - provide any links.	What were the key findings?	How has the data/evidence informed this proposal?
<p>The HAMP will assist Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council in meeting its legal duties and to support this the following National Guidance has been used. The methods adopted in the HAMP are based upon the contents of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – “Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure: A Code of Practice, UK Roads Liaison Group, 2016” – “Risk Based Approach: Method”, 2018, County Surveyor Society (WALES) CSSW, 2018 – “Highway Inspection Defect Recording Manual”, CSSW, 2018 – Works orders and highway repair work backlog figures (potholes/patching/structures). – Inspection reports. – Customer complaints. 	<p>The HAMP will guide Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council acting as the Highway Authority, in the management of the adopted highway network to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All assets continue to deliver a service to the community and highway users. - There is clear direction for Elected Members and Council staff to make informed decisions regarding the adopted highway network. - Legislative requirements are satisfied. - Exposure to safety risk is mitigated to agreed and acceptable levels. - Asset purchases, increases or construction are only approved after whole life costs and benefits are assessed and agreed. - Clear and transparent allocation of responsibilities for the management of individual assets is recorded. 	<p>The evidence and data have identified the need to introduce additional financial resources to enable the related strategies to be delivered successfully.</p>

Are there any data or information gaps and if so what are they and how do you intend to address them?

Yes, there are data gaps that need to be addressed going forward, these include;

- Accurate vehicle movement figures on the highway network.
- Pedestrian footfall on pavements, walkways and within town centres.
- Highway detailed condition survey

It is the intention to look to introducing monitoring counters at locations to assess pedestrian and vehicle volumes. There are now opportunities to explore digital highway surveys from moving vehicles.

Section 10-Consultation. Please provide details of consultation undertaken to support the proposal. Please consider the Gunning Principles: -

Principle 1: Consultation must take place when the proposals are still at a formative stage. You must not have already made up your mind.

Principle 2: Sufficient reasons must be put forward to allow for intelligent consideration and response. Have people been given the information and opportunity to influence?

Principle 3: Adequate time must be given for consideration and response. Is the consultation long enough bearing in mind the circumstances?

Principle 4: The product of consultation must be conscientiously taken into account when finalising the decision

Briefly describe any planned consultations or consultations that have been carried out to date. Please consider the above principles.

Please consider the following questions; -

1. Who did you consult?

- CSSW Codes
- Insurance Section
- Welsh Highway Authorities through CSSW
- Cabinet Member for Highways and Environmental Services
- Council Members through members briefing 18th April 2023
- Other affected departments within Blaenau Gwent CBC

2. When did the consultation take place and was adequate time given for a response?

During 2022/23 through meetings and member briefing

3. Was there enough information provided to respond effectively?

Yes

4. What were the findings?

To identify the necessary information to create a Highways Asset Maintenance Plan for adoption by Blaenau Gwent CBC.

5. Have the findings been considered in regard to the decision?

Yes

Section 11-Monitoring and Review	
How will the implementation of the proposal be monitored, including the impacts or changes made?	<p>The HAMP will be monitored through the following methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service inspections/Team briefings • Customer complaints • Annual committee performance reports/including PI's • Service reviews (every 2 years) Commencing 2025.
What monitoring tools will be used?	<p>Electronic - Mayrise system, AXA system, My Council Services</p> <p>Other tools available are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gazetteer Asset Inventory • Highways conditions surveys (Scanner & SCRIM annual reports). • Inspection reports • Highways user figures (to be developed) • Safety/Accident records • Financial resources
How will the results be used for future development?	<p>The results will be used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify necessary financial resources required • Identify highway assets to be updated/replaced • Establish an improved planned maintenance regime • To prioritise resources for immediate and future highways maintenance
How and when will it be reviewed?	<p>The HAMP will be reviewed every 2 years and reported through the Council's committee/democratic process</p>
Who is responsible for ensuring this happens?	<p>Head of Service</p>

Section 12 - Decision

Using the information you have gathered from sections 1-9 please state in the table below whether you are able to proceed with the proposal.

Continue with the proposal in its current form

Yes

No

Continue with proposal but take into account reasonable steps to mitigate any negative impacts of the proposal

Yes

No

Name of person completing the IIA

Name: David Watkins

Job Title: Team Manager – Street Scene

Date: 01/06/23

Head of Service Approval

Name: Clive Rogers

Job Title: Head of Community services

Signature:

Date:

Please contact Policy & Partnerships should you require any further advice or guidance on completing your assessment via lissa.friel@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk or emma.scherptong@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk.