Scope
This policy will form the basis for strategy development for the management and maintenance of Highways Infrastructure related assets.

Legislation and Standards
In addition to a general Duty of Care, there are a number of specific pieces of legislation which provide the basis for powers and duties relating to highway maintenance.

The Highways Act 1980 sets out the main duties of highway authorities in England and Wales. In particular, Section 41 imposes a duty to maintain highways maintainable at public expense, and almost all claims against authorities relating to highway functions arise from the alleged breach of this section.

Section 58 provides for a defence against action relating to alleged failure to maintain on grounds that the authority has taken such care as in all the circumstances was reasonably required to secure that the part of the highway in question was not dangerous for traffic.

Other duties and powers are prescribed by:

The New Roads and Street Works Act 1991
Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
Traffic Signs, Regulations & General Directions 2002
Road Traffic Act 1988
The Traffic Management Act 2004
Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003
Further Documentation
UK Roads Liaison Group / Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme (HMEP)
Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Guidance
Well-maintained Highways: Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance and Management
Management of Highway Structures
Well Lit Highways
Management of Electronic Traffic Equipment

CIPFA
Code of Practice on Transport Infrastructure Assets – guidance to support asset management, financial management and reporting (2013)

Policy Statement
This policy has been developed with the primary aim of providing guidance to those officers responsible for developing strategies for the management and maintenance of highways infrastructure related assets.

Equality Impact Assessment
An Equality Impact Assessment is not required. A Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy is also being developed which will influence our approach to highway maintenance work and therefore may impact on the public and this will be the subject of a further equalities assessment.
Background

At over 9000km in length and with an annual highway maintenance budget (capital and revenue) of approaching £50M, the highway network in North Yorkshire is one of the longest of any Highway Authority in the Country. Managing this vast highway asset is therefore vital to achieving the best possible value for money and delivering the best possible outcomes for the users of the highway network, both the residents of North Yorkshire and visitors.

Every business, resident or visitor to North Yorkshire uses the highway network in some way every day of the year and over 5 Billion kilometres are travelled on the County Councils roads every year.

Asset Management is not a new concept but is a strategic approach for addressing the many competing demands associated with managing the highway network. For many years highway authorities have been operating their networks and making the best use of the data and systems available to them.

The culture of continual improvement has been embedded within our systems since the late 1980s and since that time we have improved our data collection and storage processes.

Recent developments in technology have afforded greater benefit by allowing more in depth analysis of condition data to support improved alignment of service delivery with the changing needs of our stakeholders.
Policy for Highways Infrastructure Asset Management

The County Council recognises the vital role played by North Yorkshire’s local highway network in supporting the authority’s vision -
“We want North Yorkshire to be a thriving county which adapts to a changing world and remains a special place for everyone to live, work, and visit”

The County Council is committed to making the best use of its budgets, and advocates an asset management approach for the maintenance of the county’s local highway network, in order to help deliver the best long term outcomes for local communities.

The Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy will set out how highway asset management will be delivered in North Yorkshire. This strategy will take into account current and projected financial pressures and will explain how available funds and resources should be utilised to maximise their benefit.

Through its Local Transport Plan (LTP3), in order to further support its vision and duties, the County Council developed a series of local transport objectives. To help meet these objectives, the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy will seek to:

Support flourishing local economies by delivering reliable and efficient transport networks and services (local economies)
Well maintained highways are essential to the local economy. Reliable journey times for customers, for the delivery of goods and for staff travel are essential to good business. Well maintained roads also reduce the costs of damage and wear and tear on business vehicles. Asset management optimises the planned maintenance over the lifecycle of the highway to contribute to the best possible outcomes for the available funding and also reduces disruption to traffic resulting from unplanned reactive maintenance works.

Reduce the impact of transport on the natural and built environment and tackling climate change (environment and climate change)
A key element of asset management is to integrate sustainable solutions and treatments, which minimise waste and landfill arising from highway maintenance works. Asset management also allows improved highway condition and reduced delays for vehicles at unplanned roadworks which contribute towards improved vehicle fuel efficiency and therefore carbon emissions.

Improve transport safety and security and promote healthier travel (safety and healthier travel)
Asset management, by ensuring that we have the best possible maintenance outcomes for the available funding, contributes towards minimising accidents and incidents (resulting in injury and / or damage to vehicles and property) directly attributable to the condition of the highway network. Good asset management, by helping to ensure good networks for active travel (cycling and walking), also helps people to make healthier travel choices.

Promote greater equality of opportunity for all by improving people’s access to all necessary services (access to services)
An effectively maintained local highway network is essential to all modes of travel used to access local services (car, bus, community transport, cycling and walking) and hence contributes towards providing people with easier travel and access to these local services.

Ensure transport helps improve quality of life for all (quality of life)
A well maintained highway network reduces the impact of traffic on communities (e.g. traffic noise), improves the visual amenity of places and generally contributes to an improved quality of life for residents, visitors and travelers.