

Highway Structures Policy

1. Oxfordshire County Council, as the Highway Authority, is responsible for the provision and maintenance of highway structures assets on the road network throughout Oxfordshire excluding motorways and trunk roads.

Policy: HSP1

Oxfordshire County Council will accurately define and record location and condition of the Highway Structure Assets.

2. The Highways Act 1980 empowers highway authorities to construct and maintain highway structures required for the provision and support of the highway.
3. This policy encompasses the Oxfordshire County Council's role, responsibilities and duties with respect to the provision and maintenance of the county's highway structures assets.
4. Oxfordshire County Council seeks to proactively maintain the highway structures asset to ensure that they can safely carry highway traffic whilst minimising whole life costs and disruption, in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner.

Policy: HSP2

Oxfordshire County Council will provide safe and efficiently maintenance of highway structures to help ensure safe passage to users of the highway network, without unduly restricting commercial vehicles.

Policy: HSP3

Oxfordshire County Council will make safe any defects to the carriageway surfacing over a highway structure and accident damage to bridge parapets identified as a safety defect following any inspection or incident within the timescales indicated within the Safety Inspection Policy. The authority will seek to recover any costs incurred due to third party damages/ maintenance carried out by the Council.

Policy: HSP4

Oxfordshire County Council will manage the safety of its own, jointly-owned and privately-owned highway structures supporting the highway, on a risk assessment basis, within the resources and reasonably obtainable information available and will prioritise investigations and works to those structures posing the highest potential health and safety risks considering the potential impacts on the highway network.

5. Oxfordshire County Council is the owner of nationally important historic highway structures, such as New Bridge and many listed structures and protects these valuable heritage and tourist assets.

Policy: HSP5

Oxfordshire County Council will protect its highway structures heritage assets in a responsible manner.

6. Oxfordshire County Council is a statutory consultee in the movement of abnormally heavy vehicles across the county, which is vital to our economy and is managed to help enable safe passage without undue damage to our structures and heritage assets.

Policy: HSP6

Oxfordshire County Council will undertake the duties of a statutory consultee with regard the movement of abnormally heavy vehicles across its structures

7. Oxfordshire County Council is a statutory consultee with regard outside parties carrying out works within the vicinity of our highway assets and shall ensure that works by others, such as utility companies, which have a statutory right to put their apparatus within the highway does not damage our assets.
8. Oxfordshire County Council is technical approval authority for outside parties such as developers wishing to construct highway structures, to ensure that they are designed, constructed and maintained in a safe manner for public use and when they intend for the County Council to adopt and maintain them that they can be done so in a cost-effective manner.

Policy: HSP7

Oxfordshire County Council will perform its statutory duties as technical approval authority for highway structures and ensure that new structures are designed, constructed and maintained to support the highway network and safety of its users.

Service Aims

1. We will carry out regular inspections of highway structures, to help ensure their safety and efficient maintenance to minimise their costs and maximise their utility.
2. We will make safe and rectify safety defects in a timely manner without causing undue disruption to the highway network.
3. We will carry out our statutory duties to ensure that outside parties, do not damage our highway structures, or create new highway structures which could compromise the safe of the public or unduly increase the costs of maintaining our assets.

Reference & Supporting Documents

- Highway Structures Procedure
- [Highway Safety Inspection Policy](#)
- [OCC Highways Asset Management Plan](#)

Review Date – Jan 2020