

The new Well-Managed Highway
Infrastructure Code of Practice:

Monmouthshire CC Highway Management Plan

Presentation to Members
March 2018

Highways, Operations
Monmouthshire CC

Agenda:

- ▶ The New Code: what is it?
- ▶ The headlines: what are the key issues?
- ▶ Risk Management Approach: what is this?
- ▶ Status: what is the legal position of the new code?
- ▶ Importance of safety inspections: why the need and what is the appropriate frequency?
- ▶ Look over boundaries?
- ▶ Summary: a look at what has been done and what next: **MCC Highway Management Plan**

Background: well-managed highway infrastructure code of practice?

- ▶ Supercedes & brings together the previous Codes 'Well-maintained Highways', 'Well-lit Highways' and 'Management of Highway Structures'
- ▶ New code adopt a risk based approach to the management of the highway infrastructure
- ▶ Published on 28 October 2016
- ▶ The new Code needs to be adopted by highway authorities before October 2018

The New Code

- ▶ The highway: biggest and most expensive asset which MCC is responsible for as the local Highway & Transport Authority: MCC's Highway Asset Est. @ £40bn
- ▶ MCC's biggest Asset needs to be well managed!
- ▶ The final version of the Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure Code of Practice was published on 28 October 2016.
- ▶ Local authorities have until 28 October 2018 to implement it.
- ▶ The new Code replaces the Well-Maintained Highways Code of Practice of July 2005

What's the headlines?

- ▶ The new Code based on a principle that highway authorities will adopt a risk-based approach to asset management (more next slide)
- ▶ Taking account of local needs, priorities and affordability (but be careful on that one!)

Risk Management: what is a risk based assessment approach?

- ▶ A risk based approach is using data and other information to review how best to target resources to achieve improved efficiencies and effectiveness.
- ▶ Examples:
 - ▶ Using survey & inspection records to help to prioritise future planned maintenance as well as best direct reactive and planned maintenance work
 - ▶ Street lighting - burning lights to extinction and switching on/ off during peak demand times
 - ▶ gully cleansing schedule should be targeted to address prone flooding areas etc. and not simply follow a schedule

What is a risk based assessment approach? (cont.)

- ▶ A risk based approach requires setting the levels of service, inspection frequencies, response to service requests, resilience to adverse weather, priorities and setting of programmes. The risk approach also requires regular monitoring and review for all aspects of the highway infrastructure with follow up action.
- ▶ All above taking in to consideration the needs of the local service users and the objectives of the MCC Corporate Plan

Status of New Code

- ▶ The new code is mandatory
- ▶ Highway Authority - same as the old code - 'used in evidence'
- ▶ Non-compliance will put the authority at **high risk**: not able to successfully mounting a section 58 Highways Act 1980 defence.
- ▶ Failure to follow code will result in considerable cost to the authority (both increased claims and potential future funding)

What issues need to be considered?

Benefits of Civil Parking Enforcement

- ▶ Highway Safety
- ▶ Targeted Enforcement
- ▶ Addressing long standing parking problem areas
- ▶ Improved environmental Conditions
- ▶ Improved accessibility
- ▶ Provides a dedicated resource
- ▶ Local accountability.

Resourcing the change?

- ▶ As it is risk based a need to review your highways within your area?
- ▶ Resourcing this upfront.. But and will this approach save you money in the longer term?
- ▶ Will it make statutory defences to claims more robust (long term cost savings)

Frequency of safety inspections

- ▶ If a risk matrix is used to assess and analyse the frequency at which roads are to be inspected:
- ▶ Will it lead to a reduction in inspection frequency?
- ▶ Will it increase ‘investigatory levels’?
- ▶ The Code provides detailed guidance on what should be applied when authorities carry out their risk based approach
- ▶ Note section 58(2) of the 1980 Act. Any review should include accident claims and accident reports data.
- ▶ Keep your evidence trail - record keeping essential!
You will need to justify a change in inspection frequencies

Look over boundaries?

- ▶ Recommendation 5 - highway authorities are strongly encouraged to collaborate.
- ▶ Sharing policies and adopting similar approaches should minimise risk of challenge (CSS Wales Highway Asset Management Group)
- ▶ Claimant would have a more difficult task in challenging if a group of authorities have a similar view on risk

Sum up and where next?

- ▶ MCC Highway Infrastructure is Important:
 - ▶ Supports Corporate Plan - all users; business and residents rely the highway in many ways
 - ▶ Biggest MCC Asset Est @ £40 Billion
- ▶ New Code, New Approach
- ▶ Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure:
 - ▶ Risk Management Approach
 - ▶ Need for MCC to have a plan & implement actions
- ▶ Don't panic! Highways have prepared draft **Highway Management Plan**
- ▶ Adoption will allow key actions to progressed and other recommendations considered and developed

What next?

- ▶ Don't panic! Highways have prepared a draft **Highway Management Plan** - **completed**
- ▶ **The Highway Management Plan** needs Member support and approval - **today**
- ▶ Adoption will allow key actions to be progressed and further consideration on the development of other recommendations within the new code - **next stage**

What next? (cont.)

▶ Next stages:

- ▶ Adopt Asset Management & Risk Management Approach
- ▶ Review all how we manage our Highway Infrastructure

▶ Initial key or specific actions:

- ▶ Confirm revised Inspection regime - mirror new hierarchy
(additional resource required)
- ▶ look for consistency with neighbours - works with CSS
- ▶ Look at MCC Highways claims processes? Partly comp.
- ▶ Review use ICT and recording of data to improved efficiency, effectiveness and evidence 'pathway' - fits with wider re-design of services

Thank you

Over to you: Any questions?