



Blackpool Council

Pioneering a new direction
in highway asset management

Leading the way...

Decades of under-investment, higher than average traffic volumes and extreme weather patterns meant that Blackpool's 500km, £700 million road network was under severe strain. Road surfaces were deteriorating leading to ever-increasing reactive maintenance costs, punitive insurance claims and insufficient investment for preventative measures.

There had to be another way. Blackpool – like every other Council – had to find a strategy to deliver road maintenance that would balance growing service demands with reduced resources.

The solution was in prevention

In 2006, Blackpool Council set about developing a robust Asset Management plan to secure £30 million worth of EU funding to be paid back over 25 years. Instead of reactive maintenance, the focus was on prevention.

The programme set about achieving full visibility of the network, an investment programme and a prioritisation schedule for works.

- A detailed and accurate condition report for every square metre of the network was produced that defined a solution to support the necessary investment
- The exact backlog of works was identified
- The highways network was redefined allowing the Council to value the entire asset
- Whole life costs were calculated and a realistic funding model was established to support investment plans
- The right partners were identified to help bring the project to life



The benefits of Project 30

This new approach to maintenance was called Project 30. Its vision was to:

- Improve the streets for the benefits of residents
- Arrest the accelerating decline of the network
- Significantly reduce the amount of patching and potholes
- Dramatically reduce the number and cost of insurance claims
- Put in place programmes of planned preventative treatments

Just four years on, the Council is reaping the rewards of its investment.

- Improved resident satisfaction in road condition
- Improved elected member satisfaction, confidence and trust in Council officers to deliver
- £150 million in potential maintenance savings over 25 years
- Avoidance of road repairs
- Full breakdown of costs, accurate cost model and robust business case
- Greater collaboration between contractors and utilities
- Higher levels of service to all stakeholders
- Reduced occurrence of potholes and insurance claims
- Improved communication with local communities
- Best practice case studies to share with other local authorities
- Blackpool Council was awarded the top Chartered Institute of Highways Technology (CIHT) national prize for its work on highway asset management

How it was achieved:



- 2014 : CIHT award plus establishment of LoCHIG
- 2013 : Best improved NHT results for resident satisfaction
- 2012 : Workshops carried out to other LAs
- 2010 : Project 30 is born following full network survey
- 2009 : Awarded element 2 grant funding from the DfT
- 2008 : HAMP recognition, major turnaround from 2006
- 2007 : Pilot study of highway asset condition commissioned
- 2006 : BPC look for another way to manage highway asset moving from reactive to preventative maintenance





379,000m²
of carriageway repairs

£150million
of savings delivered
over the next 25 years

132km
of footways upgraded

CIHT
top national
prize awarded

Costs are down, confidence is up

An NHT survey into public satisfaction resulted in Blackpool being the only LHA to see a rise in their results.

The way forward

Our Highway Asset Management Plan is a proven, cost-effective solution that will enable any authority to gain a greater understanding of the extent, condition and treatment requirements of their full network.

The model has already been adopted by other local highway authorities. Local Council Highways Investment Group (LoCHIG) a partnership made up of Blackpool, Stockport, Manchester, Halton, Southend on Sea, Plymouth and Lancashire councils is helping other Local Highway Authorities prepare detailed business cases in order to gain funding for their highways. Stockport City Council has recently been granted funding of £100 million to develop their preventative maintenance plans. Manchester City Council is set to follow with an early approval of £120 million. Many more authorities are set to follow Blackpool's lead.

"This is a shining example of how progress can be made to find new ways of securing capital, making long-term investment and creating long-term savings."

Matthew Lugg OBE, HMEP Advocate

"These are fantastic results and recognition of the partnership work we are all engaged in. We need to make sure we celebrate this as it confirms our decision to use Project 30 as a vehicle to improve our asset. We are seeing tangible results that are recognised by the public."

Councillor John Jones, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Equality and Diversity

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