

Place and Resources Overview Committee 16 December 2021 Dorset Highways Skidding Resistance Strategy Review 2021

For Review and Consultation

Portfolio Holder: Cllr R Bryan, Highways, Travel and Environment

Local Councillor(s):

Executive Director: J Sellgren, Executive Director of Place

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Report Status: Public

Recommendation: That the Place and Resources Overview Committee review and support the proposed Skid Resistance Strategy and Operational Guidance document.

Reason for Recommendation: If supported, the Skid Resistance Strategy and Operational Guidance document will be subject to approval by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment.

This sets out how Dorset Council will manage skid resistance on the road network, and how risk sites are identified, prioritised and investigated (in line with revised guidance in CS228 in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges).

1. Executive Summary

Dorset Highways Skidding Resistance Strategy

1.1 The purpose of the Dorset Highways Skidding Resistance Strategy Review 2021 is to document Dorset Council's approach to the management of skid resistance on the carriageway network.

1.2 The implementation of this strategy supports the Dorset Council priority of 'staying safe and well'.

1.3 The revised document is aligned to new guidance set out in CS228 in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges.

1.4 This is an operational document, therefore if supported by the Place and Resources Overview Committee, this document is subject to approval by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment.

1.5 This will demonstrate how we as a Highways Service will monitor skid resistance, identify priority sites for investigation, how we mitigate any risks, and what remedial actions are implemented.

1.6 Dorset's Skid Resistance Policy document was last reviewed in 2017 and approved by the former Dorset County Council, and is therefore due for renewal.

1.7 Outcomes associated with this strategy document are intended to be the reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured on Dorset's roads, and the reduction in overall number of collisions.

2. Financial Implications

2.1 The proposed changes to the intervention criteria will mean more schemes being identified for remedial actions. These schemes are typically funded by the Department for Transport maintenance block capital funding.

3. Well-being and Health Implications

3.1 The revised Dorset Highways Skidding Resistance Strategy sets out how we manage skid resistance on the road network, and is intended to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on Dorset's roads, and reduce the number of collisions overall.

3.2 This supports the Dorset Council priority of staying safe and well, as well as fulfilling our duty to maintain the highway in a safe condition.

4. Climate implications

4.1 This proposal has a neutral impact on the climate.

5. Other Implications

5.1 None

6. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Medium

Residual Risk: Medium

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

7.1 EQIA form has been completed and agreed with the EQIA Champion. It is considered there would be a neutral impact to all protected characteristics groups.

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 Skid Resistance Strategy and Operational Guidance Review 2021

9. Background Papers

Footnote:

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

Dorset Highways Skidding Resistance Strategy Review 2021

10 Introduction

10.1 Dorset's Skid Resistance Policy document was last reviewed in 2017 and approved by the former Dorset County Council.

10.2 The revised Dorset Highways Skidding Resistance Strategy Review 2021 is aligned to new guidance set out in CS228 in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges. It sets out Dorset Council's approach to the management of skid resistance on the carriageway and supports the Dorset Council priority of staying safe and well.

10.4 This is a technical, and operational document intended for implementation by Highways officers, of which this revision coincides with a review of our investigatory levels which we are required to do every three years, in accordance with national guidance.

11 Purpose

11.1 The purpose of the Dorset Highways Skidding Resistance Strategy Review 2021 is to document Dorset Council's approach to the management of skid resistance on the carriageway network. This demonstrates how we fulfil our statutory duty to maintain the highway and keep it safe, in accordance with the Highways Act 1980.

11.2 Outcomes associated with this document are intended to be the reduction in numbers of people killed or seriously injured on Dorset's roads, and the reduction in overall number of collisions, which align to the outcomes documented in the Dorset Highways Service Plan.

11.3 The document defines how we survey and monitor skid resistance annually, and our methods for data collection. It states how we use data to identify and prioritise sites for further investigation, using a scoring matrix that replicates the Highways England model that assesses risk.

11.4 It also includes details of how we conduct detailed investigations of priority risk sites, to include a template of the Detailed Investigation Form, used by Highways officers. And further goes on to explain how we mitigate any initial risks through appropriate signing and discusses possible remedial treatments.

11.5 This document could potentially be used as a defence to any litigation or third-party claims against Dorset Council arising from collisions or Police investigations.

11.6 The Highways Skidding Resistance Strategy supports the risk based approach promoted in the national Code of Practice: Well Managed Highway Infrastructure.

12 Significant changes

12.1 A significant change to the document is the lowering of the intervention 'risk score' which means we tackle more risk sites, supporting Dorset Council priorities to keep people safe.

12.2 These additional sites will be funded by maintenance block funding awarded by the Department for Transport, which are accounted for in proposed investment strategies for carriageways (as per recommendation of the Highways and Transport Task and Finish working group), documented in our Highways Asset Management Plan.

12.3 The risk score is derived from a matrix which considers measured skid resistance, number of collisions and the risk associated with the actual site (ie site category – approach to junction, bend radius etc).

12.4 The risk scoring matrix has removed the reference to texture depth, with the carriageway condition data collection method, no longer reporting this.

13 Conclusion

13.1 We therefore request that the Place and Resources Overview Committee, review and give their support to this Highways Skidding Resistance Strategy document, which will then be subject to approval by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment.

13.2 This will demonstrate Dorset Council's commitment to tackling skid resistance on the carriageway network, to manage the risk associated with slippery roads, to prevent collisions, and reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on Dorset's roads.