Our vision is that Luton Borough Council will be a high performing, financially viable authority, delivering high quality services that improve health and opportunity for local people and protect the most vulnerable. Together with our partners, we will help make Luton a place where everyone can learn and thrive and where business can grow and prosper. Celebrating and building on Luton’s rich history and its vibrant cultural mix, we will develop safe, strong, sustainable communities. We will be responsive, accountable and innovative – a leader in what we do and a voice for our town.

In 2013 the Council produced its Prospectus, at the heart of which is a three point plan to:

• Increase income from business growth;

• Better equip residents of all ages to get jobs through investment in education and training;

• Work efficiently with our partners to ensure the most vulnerable in Luton are safe and supported;

The table below demonstrates how these three themes relate to the strategic priorities in the Council’s Corporate Plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business &amp; Growth</th>
<th>1. Create a vibrant environment where businesses thrive &amp; prosper.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Protect and enhance the quality of the natural &amp; built environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education &amp; lifelong learning</td>
<td>3. Improve life and learning opportunities &amp; skills for all.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe, supported &amp; healthy</td>
<td>4. Empower, support &amp; protect the vulnerable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Improve health &amp; promote health equality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6. Reduce crime, antisocial behaviour &amp; the fear it causes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7. Strengthen community cohesion.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These are underpinned by an overarching eighth priority which recognises the ongoing importance of providing services as efficiently and economically as possible. In this context Luton Borough Council considers asset management to be a key element of business planning. In terms of public highway assets for which the Council is responsible, these
currently comprise about 459 km of highway (this excludes the M1) and 900 Km of footway/footpath, 22,000 street lighting units, 96 sets of traffic signals, and 220 highway structures. Our approach to managing these Highway assets seeks to ‘sweat’ our current maintenance and operational practises whilst making gradual improvements and change. Robust forward-thinking works programmes are published each March, allowing the Council to plan ahead.

In its role as a Local Highway Authority, Luton Borough Council has various Statutory duties, including those under the:

- Highways Act 1980 to maintain the public highway to an acceptable standard and in a safe condition,
- Road Traffic Act 1988 to conduct studies into accidents on roads and implement measures to prevent such accidents as well as promoting road safety, and
- Traffic Management Act 2004 to ensure expeditious movement of traffic including, under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991, co-ordination of the works of Statutory Undertakers and other works on the public highway.

Highway maintenance activities which flow from these Statutory duties are consistent with and support most of the Council’s strategic priorities, including maintaining and enhancing the public highway (including the walking and cycle network), improving safety for vulnerable people, maintaining the flow of traffic and accessibility to schools/skills training and community facilities. They are also consistent with the three themes, together with many of the related policies, of the Luton Local Transport Plan (2011-2026) which are:

- Supporting the environment and economic development;
- Stronger and safer communities; and
- Health and wellbeing

Effective Highway Asset Management that meets expectation is central to our goal of meeting public demand and stakeholder aspiration through:

- Increased public satisfaction
  - By addressing the results of the NHT surveys
  - Responding to public queries arising from Ward Forum’s and Area Boards
  - Responding to enquiries via electronic media
We will make every effort to understand current and future requirements by listening to our customers. In order to deliver this aspiration we have become established members of national survey bodies as well as actively participating via online social forums. We have embarked on a journey of continually seeking to understand our stakeholder’s needs and requirements.

- More efficient and effective use of resources
  - Consolidating Highway Maintenance with Engineering to deliver maintenance and scheme work under one umbrella.
  - Adopting best practise by embedding it into operational highway service plans including Luton’s Highway Maintenance Plan and Winter Service Plan.

- Transfer of risk in managing assets
  - As a highway authority we provide, maintain and operate a reliable highway infrastructure maximising safety. The highway is undoubtedly a high risk valuable part of the estate. In order to mitigate and transfer risks, a risk based strategy has successfully been approached as part of our routine highway and structures inspections.

- Greater security and certainty of budgets
  - Our adoption of asset management endeavours to make pro-active long term decisions. Luton’s strategic approach embraces lifecycle planning thus seeking lowest whole-life costs by investing regularly at planned intervals. Consequently our lifecycle planning approach will enable us to quantity future works as well as supporting us in defining service levels thus making the best use of available funding.