



**Policy Subject/Title:** Footpath Asset Management Policy

**Policy Number:** OP017

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**Responsible Officer:** Director Operations

**Legislative or Regulatory Reference:** *Local Government Act 2009* (LGA)  
Local Government Regulation 2012 (LGR)

**Related Policies / Procedures:** Asset Management Policy OP008

**Adopted by:** Somerset Regional Council

**Adopted on:** 13 February 2019 [Doc ID 1094706]

**Amendments:** 9 October 2024 [Doc Id 1673423]

## 1. OBJECTIVE

To meet Council's legal responsibilities for financially sustainable asset management in respect of footpath assets. To improve the quality, safety and amenity of the pedestrian environment.

## 2. BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act 2009* requires councils to adopt long term asset management plans which provide for strategies to ensure the sustainable management of assets and infrastructure. It is intended that Council will adopt asset management policies for each of its asset categories as part of its long-term asset management plan.

## 3. PURPOSE

This policy deals with Council's asset management strategies for footpaths, shared paths and walking trails.

## 4. SCOPE

The policy applies to Somerset Regional Council and is limited to the maintenance and renewal of existing assets. This policy does not deal with the construction of new footpath assets.

## 5. POLICY

There are limited resources available to undertake footpath inspection, maintenance and renewal activities. Council must therefore prioritise asset management functions to achieve the best possible long-term outcomes for its assets while helping to ensure a safe and efficient footpath network.

For asset management planning purposes, design lives for footpath components are estimated as below:

<b>Asset type/Asset component</b>	<b>Useful life (years)</b>
Concrete - Smooth	50
Concrete - Faux Brick-Wearing surface	17
Concrete - Faux Brick – Concrete base	50
Spray sealed – Surface	10
Spray sealed - Pavement	20
Gravel	200 / 1,000
Pavers	30

**Footpath inspection:** To establish an understanding of the actual condition of the footpath network routine inspection will be carried out. Council is collecting the information that it needs to identify problem areas, prioritise works programmes, and develop on-going maintenance and capital works programme.

The following table sets out the inspection frequency;

<b>Path Type</b>	<b>Frequency of Inspection</b>
CBD/commercial/shopping centre precincts Frontage to Schools, Hospitals, Transport nodes	1-2 years
All others	2-3 years

Reactive inspections are undertaken based on complaints, requests and reports received via Council's Customer Service Request system.

**Condition rating:** The rating system to be utilised in establishing a formalised inspection program for footpath network is based on scoring appropriate segments of the network with ratings from 1 to 5 – where 1 is for 'as new' condition and 5 is for 'requires replacement'.

**Footpath condition rating table:**

<b>Rating</b>	<b>Determining Criteria</b>			
	<i>Cracking</i>	<i>Slipperiness</i>	<i>Evenness</i>	<i>Displacement</i>
1 (As new)	No Cracking	No slippery section	Even Surface	<5mm
2 (Minor level of defects affecting up to 10% of footpath area)	Some cracking present	Slightly slippery section	Slightly uneven surface	5mm-10mm
3 (Moderate level of defects affecting 10%-20% of footpath area)	Many cracked slabs present	Slippery Section(s)	Moderately uneven surface	10mm-20mm
4 (Significant defects affecting up to 50% of footpath area)	Significant cracked slabs present	Very slippery section(s)	Very uneven surface	20mm-30mm
5 (Severe defects requiring replacement or reconstruction affecting greater than 50% of Footpath area)	Extreme level of cracked slabs present	Extreme slipperiness	Extremely uneven surface	>30mm

The condition of footpaths may change considerably over the length of a segment. It is not the intention to break the network into very small sections. Therefore, the overall condition rating of a segment may vary than some isolated higher rated defects on the same segment.

**Controls:** It is necessary to establish control mechanisms for dealing with high to low risk hazard sites. Also controls need to be established when dealing with complaints from the public, service requests from staff and authorised openings. This sites generally represent a potential danger and can be either made safe by the erection of barricades and lighting, or temporarily repaired until permanent repairs can be affected. The following table will be used to categorise associated risk with every damaged site.

## **Footpath defect action response guide**

<b>Rating</b>	<b>Action required</b>
1	No action required
2	Monitor and inspect annually and determine appropriate action
3	Repairs might be undertaken in conjunction with programmed works in the area
4	Work programmed into maintenance works.
5	Action taken same day. Action may involve signage followed by programmed maintenance

### **6. DATE OF RESOLUTION**

This policy was approved by the Chief Executive Officer and adopted by the Somerset Regional Council at the Ordinary Meeting of 13 February 2019. This policy was last reviewed and amended on 9 October 2024.

Signed:

Date: 9 October 2024