

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

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| TO: | STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE | | |
| DATE: | 2 JULY 2018 | AGENDA ITEM: | 14 |
| TITLE: | HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE - POTHOLE REPAIR PLAN 2018/2019 | | |
| LEAD COUNCILLOR: | COUNCILLOR A PAGE | PORTFOLIO: | STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT |
| SERVICE: | TRANSPORTATION AND STREETCARE | WARDS: | BOROUGH WIDE |
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To inform Councillors of the additional allocation of £66,975 from the Pothole Action Fund awarded to the Council in 2017/18, as notified by the Department for Transport on 1st February 2018 and paid to the Council on 2nd February 2018.
- 1.2 To inform Councillors of the £134,681 share awarded for 2017/18 and 2018/19 from the further £100 Million of funding made available through the Pothole Action and Flood Resilience Fund, as announced by the Secretary of State for Transport on 26th March 2018, paid in two instalments to the Council, one of £100,147 on 29 March 2018 and a subsequent payment of £34,534 in April 2018.
- 1.3 To seek Committee approval and spend authority for the specialist / proprietary material surfacing work on a section of Mayfair using the additional allocation of £66,975 from the Pothole Action Fund awarded to the Council in 2017/18.
- 1.4 To seek Committee approval and spend authority for the 2018/2019 Pothole & Flood Resilience Repair Plans.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Committee accepts the additional allocation of £66,975 from the Pothole Action Fund Award (2017/18) as notified by the Department for Transport on 1st February 2018 and paid to the Council on 2nd February 2018.
- 2.2 That the Committee accepts the £134,681 share from the Pothole Action and Flood Resilience Fund for 2017/18 and 2018/19 as announced by the Secretary of State for Transport on 26th March 2018.
- 2.3 That the Committee gives approval for the proposed specialist/proprietary material surfacing work on a section of Mayfair and the proposed spend allocation outlined in Section 4.
- 2.4 That the Committee gives approval for the proposed 2018/2019 Pothole & Flood Resilience Repair Plans and the proposed spend allocation outlined in Section 4.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 To secure the most effective use of resources in the delivery of high quality, best value public service.
- 3.2 To make travel more secure, safe and comfortable for all users of the public highway.
- 3.3 To provide a public highway network as safe as reasonably practical having due regard to financial constraints and statutory duties.

4. THE PROPOSAL

Pothole Repair Plan

- 4.1 Reading Borough Council welcomes the £134,681 share from the further £100 Million from the pothole and flood resilience funding, made available for this Financial Year, as announced by the Secretary of State for Transport. Department for Transport (DfT) correspondence dated 29th March 2018 - Local Transport Capital Block Funding (Flood Resilience Fund) Specific Grant, Determination (2017/18) No.31/3296 refers and is included as a background paper.
- 4.2 The Committee should note that the £134,681 is in addition to the £66,975 Additional Pothole Action Fund, already awarded to the Council in 2017/18 but was authorised by the DfT for carrying over to the 2018/19 Financial Year (as per the Grant Determination 2017/18 No.31/2951). This additional award has been allocated for specialist/proprietary material surfacing work on a section of Mayfair as explained in the 'Highway Maintenance Update 2017/2018 and Programme 2018/2019' Report which was presented to Strategic Environment Planning and Transport Committee on 19 March 2018 (paragraphs 4.28 and 4.29 refer) and is included as a background paper.

- 4.3 The following table shows the Council's share from the DfT Pothole Action Fund / Pothole and Flood Resilience Funding Award for each Financial Year since 2011/12.

| Financial Year | DfT Pothole Action Fund / Pothole and Flood Resilience Funding Award (£) |
|----------------|--|
| 2011/12 | 295,344 |
| 2012/13 | 375,000 |
| 2013/14 | 440,000 |
| 2014/15 | 238,000 |
| 2015/16 | 163,833 |
| 2016/17 | 60,000 |
| 2017/18 | 97,000 + 66,975 = 163,975* |
| 2018/19 | 134,681 |

**Includes the £66,975 Additional Pothole Action Fund awarded to the Council in 2017/18, authorised by the DfT for carrying over to 2018/19 (as per the Grant Determination 2017/18 No.31/2951).*

- 4.4 Unlike previous years, the £134,681 share is not solely for pothole repairs but also for flood resilience work. It is therefore proposed to allocate approximately £20,000 of the share towards funding the ordinary watercourse drainage ditch clearance programme to reduce flood risk as part of the Council's ongoing flood resilience work.
- 4.5 As in previous years, it is proposed to set up a further Pothole Repair Plan, following the successful completion of the previous Pothole Repair Plans. This will enable potholes of a lesser depth than the Council's normal investigatory criteria to be repaired, which helps to extend the life of roads until such time that they require a more comprehensive maintenance treatment.
- 4.6 The Council's standard investigatory criteria for carriageway defects is 50mm depth (over an approximate area of 300mm x 300mm). The Pothole Repair Plan, as in previous years, will enable the Council to repair defects of a lesser depth, (between 30mm and 50mm depth).
- 4.7 Potholes for inclusion in the Pothole Repair Plan will be identified by the Neighbourhood Officers through the cyclical statutory highway inspections and/or following ad hoc reports/complaints received by the Council from the public or via Councillor Enquiries.
- 4.8 Roads which only receive a cyclical highway inspection every 18 months, or those roads which are not now due another formal inspection before the end of this Financial Year, will be inspected for potholes at some point before March 2019 by the Neighbourhood Officers. This is to ensure that, in the interests of fairness, all roads receive an inspection under the Pothole Repair Plan and for appropriate repairs to be carried out.

- 4.9 This Pothole Repair Plan will operate concurrently with the statutory highway inspection regime, as was the case with the previous Pothole Repair Plans.
- 4.10 The delivery of this Pothole Repair Plan will be carried out using existing Highway Operative resources and plant/equipment.
- 4.11 The Pothole Repair Plan will commence this month (July 2018) and continue through to the end of the Financial Year (31st March 2019).
- 4.12 An update on this Pothole Repair Plan will be included in the 'Highway Maintenance Update 2018/2019 and Programme 2019/2020' report, which will be presented to Strategic Environment Planning and Transport Committee in March 2019. In addition, a Pothole Repair Plan 2018/2019 Review report will be presented to Traffic Management Sub-Committee in June 2019.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 The Pothole Repair Plan will contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan objectives of:
- Keeping the town clean, safe, green and active;
 - Providing infrastructure to support the economy;
 - Remaining financially sustainable to deliver these service priorities.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 Pothole defects on the Borough's highway network, which are reported by members of the public, are assessed / considered for appropriate action in accordance with the Council's investigatory criteria and, if applicable, in accordance with the Pothole Repair Plan operating at the time.
- 6.2 The Highway Maintenance Update and Programme 2018/2019 is available on the Council's website.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 In addition to the Human Rights Act 1998 the Council is required to comply with the Equalities Act 2010. Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 requires the Council to have due regard to the need to:-
- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

7.2 The Pothole Repair Plan consists of improvement work to the Borough Council's existing public highway network. There is no overall change to service delivery at this time. Should any future updates/amendments be required, which result in service delivery changes, an equality impact assessment will be carried out.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The Borough Council, as Highway Authority, has a duty under the Highways Act 1980 to carry out highway maintenance and maintain highway structures.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Funded solely through the Department for Transport's £100 Million pothole and flood resilience funding for 2017/18 and 2018/19 - £134,681 share allocated to the Borough Council.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Department for Transport correspondence 'Local Transport Capital Block Funding (Flood Resilience Fund) Specific Grant Determination (2017/18) No.31/3296' - 29 March 2018

10.2 Strategic Environment Planning and Transport Committee 'Highway Maintenance Update 2017/2018 and Programme 2018/2019' Report - 19 March 2018.

10.3 Department for Transport correspondence 'Local Transport Capital Block Funding (Pothole Action Fund) Specific Grant Determination (2017/18): No.31/2951' - 1 February 2018.

10.4 Department for Transport 'Roads Funding: Information Pack' - January 2017.

10.5 Department for Transport 'Pothole Action Fund Award' correspondence - 8 April 2016.