

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	15 JUNE 2016	AGENDA ITEM:	13
TITLE:	HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE POTHOLE REPAIR PLAN 2016/17		
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 £60,000 share from the £50 Million Pothole Action Fund which has been made available to Reading Borough Council for pothole repairs this Financial Year, following the announcement in the Government's Autumn Statement 2015.
- 1.2 To seek approval for a Pothole Repair Plan to deliver improvements to the condition of roads within Reading.
- 1.3 To seek spend approval of the £60,000 share of the Pothole Action Fund.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the £60,000 share from the £50 Million Pothole Action Fund allocated to the Council for pothole repairs this Financial Year following the announcement in the Government's Autumn Statement 2015.
- 2.2 That the Sub-Committee approves the Pothole Repair Plan proposal outlined in Section 4.
- 2.3 That an update on progress is reported to future meetings of the Traffic Management Sub-Committee.
- 2.4 That the Sub-Committee gives spend approval for the £60,000 share of the Pothole Action Fund.

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.

4. THE PROPOSAL

Pothole Repair Plan

- 4.1 Reading Borough Council welcomes the £60,000 share from the £50 Million Pothole Action Fund, made available for this Financial Year, as announced by the Department for Transport. By way of comparison, the Council received a Pothole Funding allocation of approximately £164,000 in 2014. As in previous years, we propose setting up a further Pothole Repair Plan, following the successful completion of the two previous Pothole Repair Plans. This will enable potholes of a lesser depth than the Council's normal investigatory criteria to be repaired.
- 4.2 The Council's standard investigatory depth for carriageway defects is 50mm. The Pothole Repair Plan will enable the Council to repair defects of a minimum depth of 30mm.
- 4.3 The Department for Transport expects this Council to achieve 1,132 pothole repairs based on the £60,000 share from the Pothole Action Fund. This is based on an average cost for a pothole repair of £53.00. We expect this target to be the minimum number of pothole repairs carried out within this Council's share of the fund.
- 4.4 Clearly we are not able to address all roads in the Borough with the share of this funding and therefore we will need to prioritise/target those roads in greatest need. This will be achieved by, firstly, considering those roads which are not included in this Financial Year's highway maintenance major carriageway resurfacing / minor roads surfacing programmes. Further assessment criteria to then be considered:
 - Those roads with the highest scores/results from the unclassified road condition assessments carried out by the Neighbourhood Officers using the standard Council assessment pro-forma.
 - Those roads which have generated a high number of complaints from the public, Councillor enquiries, MP enquiries. This will also include classified roads.
 - Local knowledge of roads known to have a high proportion of potholes which are either unlikely to deteriorate sufficiently to reach the Council's 50mm depth investigatory criteria for repair or have not yet reached investigatory criteria but are already at a depth of 30mm.

- 4.5 This Pothole Repair Plan will operate concurrently with the statutory highway inspection regime, as was the case with the previous Pothole Repair Plans.
- 4.6 The delivery of this Pothole Repair Plan will be carried out using existing Highway Operative resources and plant/equipment.
- 4.7 Appendix 1 lists the roads in priority order based on the specified criteria, to enable the plan to commence immediately. However, in the event of other roads subsequently being identified or brought to our attention, considered to be of a higher priority, the list would be reviewed to ensure that the worst roads are given highest priority.
- 4.8 The Pothole Repair Plan will commence immediately and an update report will be brought back to a future Traffic Management Sub-Committee.

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 2016/2017 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 £50 Million Pothole Action Fund - £60,000 share allocated to the Borough Council.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

10.2 Appendix 1 Pothole Repair Plan - Priority List of Roads.

10.3 Traffic Management Sub-Committee 'Highway Maintenance Update and Programme 2016/2017' Report - 10 March 2016.

10.4 Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport Committee 'Severe Weather Pothole Funding Award - Additional Allocation 2014-2015' Report - 16 July 2014.

10.5 Policy Committee 'Highway Maintenance Update' Report - 10 June 2013.

Appendix 1 Pothole Plan

Road	Ward
Body Road	Abbey
Bridge Street Reading	Abbey
De Montfort Road	Abbey
Derby Street	Abbey
Eaton Place	Abbey
Fobney Street	Abbey
Gun Street	Abbey
Kings Road (Duke Street - Central Library)	Abbey
Kings Road (Duke Street - Forbury Road)	Abbey
Kingsgate Street	Abbey
Trafford Road	Abbey
Castle Hill	Abbey/Minster
Hart Street	Battle
Beresford Road	Battle
Tilehurst Road	Battle
Audley Street	Battle
Catherine street	Battle
Curzon Street	Battle
Argyle Road	Battle
Loverock Road	Battle
Portman Road	Battle
Sherwood Street Ashmere Terrace	Battle
Ardler Road	Caversham
Briants Avenue	Caversham
Kiln Road	Caversham
St Johns Road	Caversham
Washington road	Caversham
Cromwell Road	Caversham
star road	caversham
Marsack street	Caversham
Mill road	Caversham
Northumberland Avenue from long barn lane to whitley wood road	Church
Northcourt Avenue	Church
Pepper Lane	Church
Foxhays	Church
London street	Katesgrove
Southampton street JW Pell Street	Katesgrove
Waterloo road	Katesgrove
South Street, Reading (Part)	Katesgrove
Boulton Road	Katesgrove
Alpine Street	Katesgrove
Northumberland Avenue (Christchurch Gdns to Long Barn Lane)	Katesgrove/Redlands
Chazey Road	Mapledurham
Fernbrook Road	Mapledurham
Graveney Drive	Mapledurham
Brunswick Street	Minster
Coley Avenue	Minster
Swallowcroft	Minster
Castle Crescent	Minster
Coley Park Road	Minster

Wensley Road	Minster
Bath Road (Part)	Minster
Coley Hill	Minster
Brockley Close	Norcot
Grovelands Road	Norcot
Helmsdale Close	Norcot
links drive	Norcot
Brockley Close	Norcot
New Lane Hill	Norcot/Southcote/Tilehurst
Palmer Park Avenlue	Park
Wykeham Road	Park
St Peters Avenue	Park
Tuns Hill Cottages	Park
Grange Avenue	Park
Crescent Road	Park/Redlands
Cavendish Road	Peppard
Galsworthy Drive	Peppard
Kiln Road	Peppard
Stuart Close	Peppard
Redlands Road	Redlands
Erleigh road (alexandra to Carven)	Redlands
South Street Reading from London St to Livery close	Redlands
The Mount, Reading	Redlands
Eldon Square	Redlands
Whiteknights Road	Redlands
Greenwood Road	Southcote
Southcote Lane	Southcote
Southcote Lane	Southcote
Albert Road	Thames
Buxton Avenue	Thames
Darell Road	Thames
Dovedale Close	Thames
Orwell Close	Thames
Richmond Road CAVERSHAM	Thames
Norcot Road	Tilehurst
Gratwicke Road	Tilehurst
Portman Road/wigmore lane	Tilehurst
Church End Lane	Tilehurst
Mayfair	Tilehurst
Church End Lane	Tilehurst
Ash Road	Tilehurst
School Lane	Tilehurst
Chichester Road	Tilehurst
B3270	Whitley
Coningham Road	Whitley
Falmouth Road	Whitley
Northumberland Avenue (long barn lane to whitley wood road)	Whitley
Whitley wood Lane	Whitley