

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	10 JANUARY 2019	AGENDA ITEM:	6
TITLE:	HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE AND POTHOLE REPAIR PLAN 2018/2019 UPDATE REPORT		
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 £643,000 allocation to the Council from the additional £420 million funding for local highways maintenance work this Financial Year, as announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Budget 2018, confirmed in the Department for Transport correspondence dated 13th November 2018.
- 1.2 To inform Councillors on the progress with the Pothole Repair Plan 2018/2019.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the allocation of £643,000 from the additional £420 million funding for local highways maintenance work for this Financial Year, as announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Budget 2018 and confirmed in the Department for Transport correspondence dated 13th November 2018.
- 2.2 That the Sub-Committee notes the progress on the Pothole Repair Plan 2018/2019.

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

Funding Background

- 4.1 Reading Borough Council welcomes the £643,000 share from the additional £420 million funding for local highways maintenance work made available for this Financial Year, as announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Budget 2018 and confirmed in the Department for Transport (DfT) correspondence dated 13th November 2018 - 'Local Transport Capital Funding 2018/19 Financial Year' and is included as a background paper.
- 4.2 The Committee should note that the £643,000 share is in addition to the £134,681 and the £66,975* already awarded to the Council for this Financial Year from the DfT Pothole Action Fund / Pothole and Flood Resilience Funding Award. ('Highway Maintenance - Pothole Repair Plan 2018/2019' Report to Strategic Environment Planning and Transport Committee on the 2nd July 2018 refers and is included as a background paper).

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

- 4.3 The £66,975 was solely for pothole repairs and the £134,681 was for pothole repairs and flood resilience work; the £643,000 is described by the DfT as being for 'local highways maintenance, including the repair of potholes, to keep local bridges and structures open and safe, as well as to help aid other minor highway works that may be needed'.

Pothole Repair Plan 2018/2019 Progress Update

- 4.4 As in previous years, a further Pothole Repair Plan was set up for this Financial Year, following the successful completion of the previous Pothole Repair Plans. Again, this enables potholes of a lesser depth than the Council's normal investigatory criteria to be repaired, helping to extend the life of roads until such time that they require a more comprehensive maintenance treatment.

- 4.5 Potholes for inclusion in the Pothole Repair Plan 2018/2019 are being 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.
- 4.6 The Neighbourhood Officers have been selecting the roads from their respective inspection areas on a priority/needs basis to ensure a fair distribution of work across the Borough.
- 4.7 As at 14th December 2018, 410 potholes have so far been repaired under the Pothole Repair Plan 2018/2019. The projected total number of potholes expected to be repaired by the end of the Plan in March 2019 is estimated to be in the region of 1700.
- 4.8 The Pothole Repair Plan 2018/2019 is operating concurrently with the statutory highway inspection regime, as has been the case with the previous Pothole Repair Plans.
- 4.9 The delivery of the Pothole Repair Plan 2018/2019 is being carried out using existing in-house Council Highway Operative resources and plant/equipment.
- 4.10 The Pothole Repair Plan 2018/2019 commenced in October 2018 and will be continuing through to the end of the Financial Year (31st March 2019).
- 4.11 An update on the Pothole Repair Plan 2018/2019 will be included in the 'Highway Maintenance Update 2018/2019 and Programme 2019/2020' Report, which is expected to be presented to Strategic Environment Planning and Transport Committee in March 2019.

Additional Highways Maintenance Funding Share of £643,000

- 4.12 It is proposed to allocate the £643,000 Additional Highways Maintenance Funding as follows:

HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE AREA	ADDITIONAL FUNDING ALLOCATION (£)
Pothole Repairs / Pothole Repair Plan 2018/2019	125,000
Major Roads Resurfacing	175,000
Minor Roads Surfacing	100,000
Footway Reconstruction	93,000
Bridges / Structures	150,000
TOTAL	643,000

- 4.13 A further report on the £643,000 Additional Highways Maintenance Funding Award will be included in the 'Highway Maintenance Update 2018/2019 and Programme 2019/2020' Report' to be presented to an appropriate Committee prior to the end of the Financial Year, for formal spend approval.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 The Pothole Repair Plan and the £643,000 Additional Highways Maintenance Funding will contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan 2018-21 objectives of:

- Securing the economic success of Reading
- Keeping Reading's environment clean, green and safe
- Ensuring the Council is fit for the future

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 Pothole defects on the Borough's highway network, which are reported by members of the public, Councillors and media 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 2018/2019 and the £643,000 Additional Highways Maintenance Funding consists of maintenance 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 Capital Grant Funding for 2017/18 and 2018/19.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Strategic Environment Planning and Transport Committee 'Highway Maintenance Code of Practice & Highway Asset Management Update' Report - 21 November 2018.
- 10.2 Department for Transport correspondence 'Local Transport Capital Funding 2018/19 Financial Year' - 13th November 2018.
- 10.3 Strategic Environment Planning and Transport Committee 'Highway Maintenance - Pothole Repair Plan 2018/2019' Report - 2 July 2018.
- 10.4 Department for Transport correspondence 'Local Transport Capital Block Funding (Flood Resilience Fund) Specific Grant Determination (2017/18) No.31/3296' - 29 March 2018.
- 10.5 Strategic Environment Planning and Transport Committee 'Highway Maintenance Update 2017/2018 and Programme 2018/2019' Report - 19 March 2018.
- 10.6 Department for Transport correspondence 'Local Transport Capital Block Funding (Pothole Action Fund) Specific Grant Determination (2017/18): No.31/2951' - 1 February 2018.
- 10.7 Department for Transport 'Roads Funding: Information Pack' - January 2017.
- 10.8 Department for Transport 'Pothole Action Fund Award' correspondence - 8 April 2016.