



8th January 2015

Agenda Item: 8

**REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, HIGHWAYS
AN UPDATE ON CARRIAGEWAY REPAIRS AND POT HOLES**

Purpose of the Report

1. This report is to advise Committee of the latest position on carriageway repairs and pot holes.

Information and Advice

2. At the Committee on 17th July 2014 a report was considered on a new approach adopted in Nottinghamshire to repairing carriageway defects and pot holes following the award of £2.78m from the Government's Pothole Fund. This funding is in addition to the £1.65m from the Government's Severe Weather Recovery Scheme and the £2.8m from County Council budgets.
3. An asset management strategy - 'prevention rather than cure' - is followed in the County with programmes of surface dressing to preserve the condition of existing sound road surfaces and resurfacing of worn out roads but this still leaves many roads in need of patching works pending funding for more substantial work. To reflect this balance between 'prevention' and 'cure' the combined funding outlined above is being used in the following ways.

Preparation for more surface dressing

4. There are many roads in the County where damage to the road surface is not severe enough to justify full resurfacing but where surface dressing would be more appropriate as it slows down deterioration (fewer pot holes). Surface dressing does not replace resurfacing but is roughly ten times cheaper so is a very cost effective approach in trying to tackle the substantial backlog of repairs needed on the County's road network. Any patches of damage on such roads need to be repaired prior to surface dressing and this work can be done up to 18 months before the actual surface dressing. A programme of 'pre-patching' has therefore been put together as shown in Appendix 1 for completion by 31st March 2015 which will enable a significant increase in the surface dressing programme for 2016/17.

A programme of patching works

5. On those roads where the concentration and number of pot holes is significant it is not cost effective to repair all the pot holes on an individual basis. A programme of more

substantial patching works has been developed which will improve the condition of some of these roads as shown in Appendix 2. This patching work will repair nearly 31000 sq m of the County's road network – the equivalent of over 92000 pot holes.

Pot holes

6. In 2013/14 nearly 34000 pot holes were filled in. The new approach to filling pot holes of using new material and 'find and fix' gangs as outlined in the previous Committee report has meant over 60000 pot holes filled in up to the end of December. There has also been a significant increase in the number of pot holes filled in within 1 working day of being found or reported.

Small drainage schemes

7. The severe wet weather last winter led to ponding on many parts of the highway network and over seventy small drainage schemes are programmed as shown in Appendix 3 to try and resolve these ponding problems. This not only benefits road users but slows down deterioration of the road surface and reduces pot holes.

Conclusion

8. Despite these programmes of work and the additional Government funding the condition of the County road network continues to deteriorate. Over 1 in 5 of all unclassified residential roads and almost 1 in 10 of the County's B and C roads (a total distance of 300 miles of road) are in need of repair. Whilst there was little snow last winter the very wet weather and localised flooding continued to damage the surface and foundations of the roads including creating more potholes.

Statutory and Policy Implications

This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that Committee note the contents of the report.

Andrew Warrington
Service Director Highways

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
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Constitutional Comments

Report for information.

Financial Comments

Report for information.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All