

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Cabinet **DATE:** 16th April 2018

CONTACT OFFICER: Sanjay Dhuna - Service Lead Planning and Transport and Sing-Wai Yu Team Leader – Highway Maintenance and Asset Management

(For all enquiries) (01753) 875810 and (01753) 875628

WARD(S): All

PORTFOLIO: Planning & Transport – Councillor Carter
Corporate Finance & Housing – Councillor Nazir

PART I **NON-KEY DECISION**

ADDITIONAL HIGHWAYS REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE (POTHoles) FOLLOWING RECENT SEVERE WEATHER

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval to make available additional funding to repair potholes and to undertake additional planned maintenance resurfacing works on the highway network following the recent severe weather.

2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

The Cabinet is requested to resolve:

- (a) That the allocation of the additional funding as per the detail contained in the table below be approved to enable the highway maintenance team to undertake the works as required.
- (b) That samples of the pothole repair locations and other resurfacing work locations be published for public access onto the Council's website.

3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan

3a. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities –

Priorities:

- Health: A well maintained highway network ensures residents can access the health services they need.
- Economy and Skills – Continue to provide residents with access to essential services by maintaining the good condition of road surface and pavements and making journeys safe between work, home, leisure, school and making alternatives to the car more attractive.
- Regeneration and Environment; A well maintained highway network is a prerequisite to safe and efficient bus services to increase the use of sustainable forms of transport.

- **Housing:** A well maintained highway network is essential to keep public transport links to the area, with quicker journey times for the bus routes serving the area and giving greater choices for residents as to where they can live and access work and facilities.
 - **Safer Communities:** A well maintained highway network will reduce traffic congestion; improve the environment for residents, business communities and visitors and make our borough feel safe to live and visit.
- Cross-Cutting themes:

Civic responsibility: By ensuring that residents of Slough feel safe in using the highway network by driving, cycling or walking, Slough Borough Council acting as the Highway Authority will be discharging its statutory responsibility.

Improving the image of the town: By enhancing the appearance of the highway network thus ensuring sustainable transport links to Heathrow Airport, London and beyond, improving access and reducing journey times of local bus services and general commuter traffic.

3b Five Year Plan Outcomes

By carrying out additional highway repairs and maintenance will support the following key actions of the Five Year Outcomes that are also represented in the Transport and Highways Service Plan 2016/17.

- *Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful because their journeys to schools and other leisure activity centres will be made much safer.*
- *Our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs because a well maintained highway network will encourage them to take more exercise by walking and other outdoor activities.*
- *Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay because a well maintained highway network will enhance the appearance of the town to make people feel safe, less traffic congestion and welcomed as well as properly managed.*
- *Our residents will live in good quality homes because a well maintained highway network is crucial in ensuring the infrastructure for public utilities is well managed which in turn ensures the supplies to the homes are secured with less interruption.*
- *Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide opportunities for our residents because a well maintained highway network is a reflection of a Borough being well run and managed.*

4 Other Implications

(a) Financial :

Slough Borough Council has both revenue and capital budgets for highway maintenance and planned preventative road maintenance works. The Budgets for 2018/19 are as follows:

Revenue – Reactive/Routine Highway Maintenance	£296,000
Capital – Planned road maintenance works	£500,000

A planned work programme has already been prepared to spend this money and is currently being discussed with members.

It appears the recent severe weather has resulted in additional work required to fix potholes and undertake further highway maintenance. It is anticipated that up to £500k may be required to maintain the highways and ensure that the condition is at the expected level. At Cabinet on 19th March 2018 it was agreed that Cabinet will have up to £210k capital funding and £210k revenue funding to further outcomes during 2018/19. It was also agreed that any unused funding from 2017/18 be rolled forward into 2018/19 and allocated on the basis of cabinet requests in line with the scheme. Therefore it is recommended that these allocations will be used to fund any additional works as required.

(b) Risk Management

Recommendation from section 2 above	Risks/Threats / Opportunities	Current Controls	Using the Risk Management Matrix Score the risk	Future Controls
To approve the allocation of the additional funding as per detail contained in the table below enable highway maintenance team to undertake the works as outlined	Increased risk of injury to pedestrians, other road users when travelling on our highway network. It will result in higher insurance claims	Annual condition surveys. Safety inspections routine and reactive maintenance works and planned maintenance works.	8 (Heath & Safety Risk – Marginal impact. Significant probability)	More preventative /planned maintenance works to be carried out if budget allowed. New Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance to be adopted.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no legal or Human Rights Act implications relating to the content of this report.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

An EIA is not required as the highway authority is already providing this service as a statutory requirement.

5 Supporting Information

5.1 Slough Borough Council is the Highway Authority for Slough which carries the statutory responsibility for the up-keep of its highway network.

5.2 The Council manages the following key highway assets:

- 324km of roads
- 647km of footways/cycleways
- 56 bridges and structures
- 12300 street lights
- 1850 illuminated signs and bollards
- 130 traffic signals

- 5.3 The Council has dedicated an annual revenue budget for highway maintenance which for reactive/routine maintenance and also a capital budget for planned preventative road maintenance works.
- 5.4 The Council relies on central government's local transport capital funding for its planned capital highway maintenance works part of which contains the Pothole Action Fund, the budget for Pothole fund for 2017/18 was £66K and in Feb 2018, the government has made additional £45K Pothole Funding available to us.
- 5.5 Slough Borough Council has a very good track record in spending the funds on highway maintenance and is regarded as one of the best run highway authorities in this country with the overall condition of the highway network recognised to be one of the best in this region, our insurance claim record on highway accident related injuries is also one of the lowest in the country.
- 5.6 Whilst the Council is keen to maintain the good quality standard previously set for the highway network, the recent severe winter weather has caused deterioration in the condition and appearance of our road surface and pavements, potholes are beginning to appear in many locations as a result.
- 5.7 The highway team together with Council's DSO are working hard together in treating and filling the potholes after the recent severe weather conditions. We have already organised a dedicated team for pothole treatments around the Borough, however, due to the rate of the pothole occurrence, it is anticipated that we will require additional funding to tackle the problem properly and to prevent further condition deterioration on our roads and pavement.
- 5.8 The highway team have already prepared the resurfacing list for 2018/19; this list has been circulated to all ward councillors for consultation. The additional £500K of funding to be allocated for the pothole repair works can be absorbed into the resurfacing programme as well as being undertaken by our DSO under separate work instructions.

6 **Comments of Other Committees**

This report has not been considered by any other committees.

7 **Conclusion**

The Cabinet is requested to approve the suggested identification of additional funding to enable the any required pothole repair and additional highway maintenance works to be carried out as soon as possible.