

**Question: CQ08.01&02**

**Cabinet – 13 July 2021**

**Re: Agenda item**

**Question submitted by: Cllr Ellie King**

The report states: “In March 2021 the Department for Transport announced a £1,303,394 reduction in funding and therefore the reduction will significantly affect the authority ability to deliver its statutory duty and ability to deliver its preventative programme of work.”

Q1:

Can the Cabinet Member for Transport confirm that local government is having to bear the brunt of continued Government austerity, and that the Government has little interest in improving transport in Bristol, aside from piecemeal gestures?

Reply:

- The authority receives a highway maintenance grant based on a national formula every year from the Department of Transport. The grant is not enough to maintain the highway to a steady state and therefore additional grants are pursued to further support the highway network e.g. challenge funds.
- In addition, the authority support highway maintenance by a further £1m annually but the depreciation of the asset continues as lifecycle modelling has identified that an additional £4m investment in carriageways is required to maintain the current condition.
- Our biggest ask of government is that they give the funding for the world class mass transit system Bristol deserves.

Q2:

I welcome the additional £9m funding to fill in potholes. Could I ask Cabinet how much has been spent on filling in potholes since 2016?

Reply:

- We take a proactive approach to the repair of potholes as “Prevention is better than cure”.
- Therefore, the figures presented below are the amounts the authority have spent maintaining carriageways which include, repair of potholes and depressions, structural patching to repair structurally defective carriageway, preventative treatments such as surface dressing and carriageway surfacing.

- All of these processes are aimed at preventing, reducing or repairing locations which have or going to pothole.

Description	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total
Highway Operations - Non Principal Carriageways	732	501	579	572	620	<b>3,004</b>
Highway Operations - Principal Carriageways	332	159	197	226	174	<b>1,088</b>
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>1,064</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>4,092</b>
Carriageway Reconstruction/Resurfacing - General	1,465	2,568	1,811	982	1,250	<b>8,076</b>
Extra Government Funds - Carriageway Reconstruction / Resurfacing	199	218	538	188	-	<b>1,143</b>
Local Highways Maintenance Funding 2018-19	-	-	1,643	83	-	<b>1,726</b>
Structural Carriageway Repairs & Surfacing – Internal Funds PB	-	-	-	979	746	<b>1,725</b>
Highways Maint. Challenge Fund (DfT 1920)	-	-	-	-	1,114	<b>1,114</b>
Additional Pothole Action Fund 20/21 & 21/22	-	-	-	-	2,661	<b>2,661</b>
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>1,664</b>	<b>2,786</b>	<b>3,992</b>	<b>2,232</b>	<b>5,771</b>	<b>16,445</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,728</b>	<b>3,446</b>	<b>4,768</b>	<b>3,030</b>	<b>6,565</b>	<b>20,537</b>

**Figures shown are X,000**