

# Decision Pathway – Report



**PURPOSE:** Key decision

**MEETING:** Cabinet

**DATE:** 02 May 2023

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Highways Maintenance Works - Additional Pothole Funding</b>		
<b>Ward(s)</b>	<b>City Wide</b>		
<b>Author:</b> Philip Davies	<b>Job title:</b> Strategic Highways Maintenance Team Manager		
<b>Cabinet lead:</b> Councillor Donald Alexander, Cabinet Member for Transport	<b>Executive Director lead:</b> John Smith, Interim Executive Director Growth and Regeneration		
<b>Proposal origin:</b> BCC Staff			
<b>Decision maker:</b> Cabinet Member <b>Decision forum:</b> Cabinet			
<b>Purpose of Report:</b> To seek approval to spend an additional £989,940 on existing highways maintenance priorities as described in the report.			
<b>Background:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To assist with the depreciating road condition, ongoing maintenance pressures and to keep the network safe, additional funding has been made available from the recent budget announcement. The government are investing an extra £200m into repairing roads. WECA has been allocated £2.8m of the investment. Bristol's allocation from this is £989,940.</li><li>2. Potential sites have been identified through digital condition surveys, which employ a RAG rating, enabling us to target the additional funding to those areas highlighted as Red. The list of sites will be further prioritised by existing methods, where road condition, road hierarchy (usage), the number of defect repairs, number of enquiries and other factors are considered and scored accordingly.</li><li>3. The work will mostly comprise of smaller resurfacing sites, typically junctions and roundabouts, which are areas which are not suitable for preventive maintenance such as surface dressing and micro asphalt, which is regarded as our default option and is in line with national guidance (HMEP - Well Managed Highways).</li><li>4. Bristol City Council repair on average over 2,500 potholes each year. The work will be targeted at sites where there is significant potholing and where we are frequently having to carryout response repairs. That should significantly improve the condition of those sites, impacting the local environment and reducing the number of response repairs, so that resource can be better allocated in the future.</li><li>5. To advise; carriageway preventive maintenance is already funded for this financial year.</li><li>6. A well-maintained highway network is critical for fulfilling our statutory obligations in accordance with the Highways Act. Failure to maintain our roads may breach Health and Safety legislation and pose severe risks to the public and damage the reputation of the authority and wider economy.</li></ol>			

## Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations

That Cabinet

1. Authorises the Executive Director for Growth and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, to spend an additional £989,940 funding on existing highways maintenance priorities as outlined in this report including to procure and award the contract(s) necessary which may be above the key decision threshold.

### Corporate Strategy alignment:

The corporate strategy objectives of this funding would be fulfilment of some of the corporate strategic themes with regard to the Theme, Transport and Connectivity and business as usual functions. The funding will specifically meet the Physical infrastructure strategy to:

Plan, prioritise and begin a refreshed and long-term (25-year+) programme of maintenance, repair, and renewal of the city's infrastructure, such as roads and bridges. This will help make sure that the city is safer, more climate-resilient, nature-friendly, and able to grow its economy in an inclusive and sustainable way.

The repairs to the carriageway will also fulfil the Council's main overall statutory duties, as Local Highway Authority and will benefit the local community and users of the highway.

### City Benefits:

Maintaining our highway assets is not only essential to meet our statutory obligations as a local authority but also to achieve our corporate goals. Improving the condition of our roads will ensure we are a well-connected city, linking people with jobs and services by means of a well-maintained road network. A well-maintained highway will also encourage our residents to cycle more aiding wellbeing, help us meet our climate change obligations and reduce our carbon footprint. By improving and maintaining our highway assets now we will increase the resilience of our transport network, reduce disruption and potential elevated costs in the future through a well-planned programme of work.

### Consultation Details:

None. As the works are like for like replacement works, we don't tend to consult as the selection is based on existing prioritisation methods as described above.

### Background Documents:

[Additional Budget 2023 highways maintenance and pothole repair funding, 2023-2024](#)

<b>Revenue Cost</b>		<b>Source of Revenue Funding</b>	
<b>Capital Cost</b>	<b>£989,940</b>	<b>Source of Capital Funding</b>	Funding allocated to WECA
<b>One off cost</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Ongoing cost</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Saving Proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Income generation proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>

### Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:

#### 1. Finance Advice:

1. In the Government's budget 2023 statement, the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) has been allocated additional Highways maintenance funding to improve the condition of the Highway network.
2. WECA has confirmed that Bristol's allocation is £0.990m for 2023-24, this is in addition to the existing highways maintenance funding settlement announced in the October 2021 Spending Review.
3. The grant funding will be paid in quarterly instalments in advance, for capital work on Highway assets.
4. The Highways service have identified a range of suitable sites across the city to allocate the grant funding.
5. After following procurement regulations and engaging with suitable contractors, the Highways service will need to ensure the grant funds are adequately allocated. To mitigate the risk of overspending, the service must follow robust contract management processes, regularly report outcomes and monitor spend, to

ensure that the confirmed funding envelope is not breached.

6. Funding pressures will need identifying and reporting early, with suitable mitigations, which will likely impact the whole Highways maintenance capital programme.

**Finance Business Partner:** Kayode Olagundoye, Interim Finance Business Partner, Growth and Regeneration, 11 April 2023

**2. Legal Advice:** The procurement process must be conducted in line with the 2015 Procurement Regulations and the Councils own procurement rules. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.

**Legal Team Leader:** Husinara Jones, Team Leader/Solicitor 11 April 2023

**3. Implications on IT:**

I can see no implications on IT in regard to this activity.

**IT Team Leader:** Alex Simson, Senior Solution Architect, 18 April 2023

**4. HR Advice:** There are no HR implications evident

**HR Partner:** Celia Williams, HR Business Partner, 17 April 2023

<b>EDM Sign-off</b>	John Smith, Interim Executive Director Growth and Regeneration	29 March 2023
<b>Cabinet Member sign-off</b>	Councillor Don Alexander, Cabinet Member for Transport	30 March 2023
<b>For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off</b>	Mayor's Office	3 April 2023

<b>Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix D – Risk assessment</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix G – Financial Advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix H – Legal Advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix I – Exempt Information</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix J – HR advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix K – ICT</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix L – Procurement</b>	<b>NO</b>