

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
All

Addition of the Department of Transport's Additional Funding for Potholes to the 2016/17 Highways Block of the Corporate Capital Programme
(Appendix 'A' refers)

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Executive Summary

This report requests approval to add £1.241 million additional funding received from the Department for Transport's Pothole Action Fund to the Highways Block of the 2016/17 approved Corporate Capital Programme and to allocate the funding as detailed at Appendix 'A'.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport is asked to approve:

- (i) the addition of £1.241 million awarded to Lancashire County Council by the Department for Transport to repair potholes to the Highways Block of the 2016/17 approved Corporate Capital programme;
- (ii) the proposed allocation of the funding set out in the report and the scheme list at Appendix 'A'; and
- (iii) the publication of an annual report on the County Council's website by the end of March 2017 and copied to the Department for Transport, showing how much money has been spent, including a quantifiable report of the specific activities that have been undertaken including the location.

Background and Advice

As part of the £250 million Pothole Action Fund included in the Government's 2016 March budget to tackle over 4 million potholes by 2020/21, £50 million has been released to over 100 councils in England to repair nearly 1 million potholes across the country over the next 12 months. Based on the size of the local road network, the County Council has been awarded £1.241 million.

It is expected that each authority will commit to target these funds on permanently fixing potholes or by stopping them forming in the first place. Activities can include permanent pothole repairs or resurfacing to help prevent potholes from forming. This funding must complement rather than displace planned highway maintenance expenditure for 2016/17.

Based on objective data, it is proposed that the funding allocated to the County Council, be allocated to prioritise permanent pothole repairs across Lancashire on sections of roads in a condition which currently require the most regular visits to keep them safe and serviceable. These locations will be ranked on a countywide rather than district basis.

This approach has two positive outcomes. Firstly, asset management principles have been applied in accordance with the Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme by proactively identifying and carrying out permanent repairs and secondly the maintenance liability and costs incurred by repeated visits to known failing sites will be reduced.

The proposed treatments include permanent repairs including machine patching and resurfacing depending on nature of the problem.

A further condition of the funding is that an annual report will be published on the county council website by the end of March 2017 and copied to the Department for Transport showing how much money has been spent, including a quantifiable report of the specific activities that have been undertaken including the location.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The proposed allocation of funding will ensure that the expenditure is aligned to the Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme by proactively identifying and carrying out permanent repairs. The maintenance liability and costs incurred by repeated visits to known failing sites will not be reduced if this approach is not followed.

Financial

It is proposed that the additional funding of £1.241 million will be added to the Highways Block of the 2016/17 approved Corporate Capital programme.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A