

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET 1 SEPTEMBER 2011

SUBJECT:	<i>POTHOLE FUNDING</i>
WARD/S AFFECTED:	<i>ALL</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES</i>
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	<i>COUNCILLOR HARRY SMITH STREETSCENE AND TRANSPORT SERVICES</i>
KEY DECISION?	<i>NO</i>

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the additional funding allocated to Local Authorities by the Department for Transport (DfT) for repairing winter potholes.
- 1.2 The amount of grant available to Wirral is £625,931. Cabinet on 2 June 2011 considered a 'Government Grants 2011/12' report (refer Minute 11) and recommended that Technical Services budget 2011/12 be increased by £625,931 with this matched by grant income. A requirement of the DfT is that this additional expenditure should be detailed on the Authority's website together with the original budget for highways maintenance and how this additional expenditure has complemented the original expenditure plans (with a copy to the DfT).

2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

- 2.1 Members are requested to note the contents of this report and to approve the use of the DfT grant to repair those roads worst affected by the adverse winter weather conditions of November/December 2010.

3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 3.1 At the Cabinet meeting held on 3 February 2011 Members approved the Highway Structural Maintenance Programme for 2011/2012.
- 3.2 The programme is made up of roads identified for treatment based on the results of highway condition surveys and those roads recommended for inclusion by highway inspection staff, elected Members, Area Forums, the public and Streetscene officers.
- 3.3 The schedule of roads contained in that programme was compiled in the late autumn of 2010, prior to the severe winter weather conditions in December

2010. Consequently the roads listed below in paragraph 4.5 were not included in that programme as they were not notably damaged at that time.

- 3.4 The roads listed have subsequently been identified for repair during inspections carried out when the worst of the winter weather had passed in January 2011 to determine the extent of the damage caused by the impact of freeze and thaw. Following the inspection process an immediate programme of pothole repairs was undertaken to make the road surfaces safe but many of the inspected roads were assessed as requiring resurfacing rather than piecemeal repair to prevent the complete failure of the road surface and to obtain better value for money.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The overall funding for the structural maintenance of roads and footways in 2011/12 is summarised below and schemes to the value of the amounts shown in the table have been issued to the Council's Highways Term Maintenance Contractor and will be completed in the current financial year.

Funding Source	£
Local Transport Plan Capital Programme 2011/12 Maintenance block	1,500,000
Wirral Capital Programme – Primary Routes	500,000
Wirral Capital Programme – Residential Roads	500,000
Wirral Revenue Allocation	1,000,000
TOTAL	3,500,000

- 4.2 The highway network for which Wirral Council is responsible comprises of approximately 1,185 kilometres of road made up of the following road categories and road lengths, 96km of principal A roads, 68km of B roads, 55km of C roads and 966km of unclassified roads.
- 4.3 The surfaces of roads from each of the above categories were affected in varying degrees by the winter weather and road salting processes and some continued to deteriorate through the late winter and early spring months. Extensive repairs either in the form of resurfacing or overlaying with a surface dressing have been carried out to prevent failure of the underlying road construction. These works have been funded from current highway capital and revenue budgets replacing some of the roads approved for inclusion in this year's Structural Maintenance Programme.
- 4.4 The DfT grant has now covered the cost of the majority of the winter weather repairs as detailed in 4.5 and 4.6 below and a number of schemes, that would

have been removed from the Structural Maintenance Programme due to the changing priorities caused by the severe weather damage, can now be reinstated.

- 4.5 Roads where resurfacing or surface treatment has been carried out to repair winter damage are as follows:

Resurfacing schemes:

Hinderton Road Birkenhead	£40,000
Seabank Road New Brighton	£50,000

Surface Treatments:

Palm Hill Oxton	£10,000
Christchurch Road Oxton	£20,000
Devonshire Place Claughton	£20,000
Greenleas Road Wallasey	£24,000
Eastbourne Road Birkenhead	£10,000
Various roads Port Sunlight Village}	£71,000
Gorsedale Road Poulton}	£40,000
Boundary Road West Kirby	£11,000
Stoneby Drive Wallasey	£15,000
Murrayfield Road Leasowe	£20,000
Noctorum Lane Noctorum	£20,000
Marfords Avenue Bromborough	£23,000
Lyndhurst Road Meols	£8,000
Trinity Road Hoylake	£23,000
Greenway Greasby	£14,000
Poll Hill Road Heswall	£33,000
Roxburgh Avenue Tranmere	£10,000

Total £462,000

- 4.6 The following roads have recently been resurfaced as part of the current Structural Maintenance Programme and, in all of the locations listed, the works have been extended to include areas that required resurfacing because of winter weather damage; the costs shown are the additional surfacing costs.

Additional works to Prenton Rd West Prenton	£34,000
Additional works Bebington Road New Ferry	£45,000
Additional works to Whetstone Lane Birkenhead	£35,000
Additional works to Holm Lane Oxton	£25,000
Additional works to Oxton Road/Woodchurch Road Junction	£25,000

Total £163,000

Overall Total £626,000

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1 The Council has a statutory duty to maintain the highway and this is achieved in part through the structural maintenance of roads.
- 5.2 Repairing and reinstating damaged road surfaces reduces the Council's exposure to potential public liability insurance claims.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 None. Without this additional grant the repairs would have been funded from existing highway maintenance budgets and a number of schemes currently included in this years Structural Maintenance Programme would not have proceeded.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 It is a DfT requirement that the additional expenditure is detailed on the Council's website together with the original budget for highway maintenance and how this additional expenditure complements the Council's original expenditure plans.
- 7.2 A copy of this information is also to be shared with the DfT.
- 7.3 Compliance with the DfT's requirement will be met through the publication of the minutes of this Cabinet meeting, should the report be approved, and through providing the DfT with an internet link to the minutes.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 8.1 No specific implications identified through this report.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

- 9.1 Financial: the surfacing repairs undertaken in the roads listed in paragraph 4.3 have been funded from the DfT grant.
- 9.2 Staffing: Existing staff resources have been used to survey, assess and monitor the surfacing repairs.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 imposes a duty on the Council, as Highway Authority, to maintain highways at the public expense.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are none identified in the report.

11.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

(a) Is an EIA required? No

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 The environmental impact of the proposed construction methods and processes for each surfacing treatment are evaluated on a site by site basis.

12.2 Wherever possible the use of recycling processes is encouraged to reduce the tax burden through landfill and aggregate levies and to limit the use of non-renewable resources.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 Planning: There are no planning implications arising directly from this report.

13.2 Community Safety: Repairing and reinstating the road surface in each location will reduce potential hazards and dangers to users of the highway.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Shaun Brady**
Asset Manager (Highways Management)
telephone: (0151) 606 2098
email: shaunbrady@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Letter from Department for Transport detailing level of additional funding and consultation requirements.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

(Include background information referred to or relied upon when drafting this report, together with details of where the information can be found. There is no need to refer to publicly available material: e.g. Acts of Parliament or Government guidance.)

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet	3 February 2011