

<b>COUNCILLOR STUART WHITTINGHAM</b>	<b>DELEGATED DECISION</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT POTHOLE ACTION FUND 2016/17</b>

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

This report is to inform the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Infrastructure of the details of the Pothole Action Fund announced by the Department for Transport (DfT) on 7 April 2016 and to recommend that the Portfolio Holder accepts the allocation of £206,000 from the Pothole Action Fund.

The maintenance of highways is a statutory duty.

This is not a Key Decision.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure:

- (i) Notes the report, and the conditions attaching to the DfT Pothole Action Fund allocation;
- (ii) Approve the acceptance of the allocation of £206,000 from the Pothole Action Fund 2016/17; and
- (iii) Notes that Officers are developing a programme of activity for use of the fund, and requires that he receive a further report setting out the planned programme of activity prior to its publication on the Council's website, and approves the methodology proposed for the use of the Fund allocation.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 The Cabinet Member has delegated authority to approve grant funding as set out in Part 3 Schedule 5 General (iii) of the Council's Constitution.
- 1.2 Endorsement of the programme of activity proposed is appropriate, prior to its publication.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 None.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 On 7 April 2016, the Roads Minister announced details of the 2016/17 funding allocations for the Pothole Action Fund. The Pothole Action Fund will provide £50 Million a year to local highway authorities for each of the next 5 years.
- 3.2 Wirral Council have been allocated £206,000 for 2016/17 from the Pothole Action Fund, with an expectation by DfT that the Council will repair at least 3,887 potholes using that allocation, based on a national average figure of £53 to permanently repair a single pothole.
- 3.3 DfT expect that each authority will commit to target these funds on permanently fixing potholes on the roads or by stopping them forming in the first place. Additionally, DfT instruct that this funding must complement (rather than displace) the Council's planned highway maintenance expenditure for 2016/17.
- 3.4 To promote greater transparency, the DfT expect the Council to publish an annual report on the Council's website by end of March 2017– 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.
- 3.5 The published report should provide details of how many potholes have been permanently repaired or the length of resurfacing that has taken place to stop the formation of potholes, as well as including the Council had originally budgeted to spend this financial year and how this additional funding has complemented the wider maintenance expenditure by the authority.
- 3.6 It is considered that the most efficient and cost effective material to prevent further deterioration of the carriageway is surface dressing. Therefore rural routes with high claims numbers have been selected to be included in this year's surface dressing programme, along with some minor industrial areas. Micro-asphalt has been selected to be used to eliminate pot holes on service roads off main routes, which would not be picked up on the condition surveys, but locations which impact a number of highway users. The remainder of the funding will be spent on patching surface damage to prevent future pot holes.

3.7 The funding available for the patching from the Pothole Action Fund will be divided equally between the four constituency areas.

3.8 Given the limited time available to carry out the works to meet the contractor's supply chain programmes, it is not intended to carry out further local consultation.

3.9 The funding allocation is £206,000; and this will be spent in the following three ways:

Surface dressing	£116,000
Micro-asphalt	£ 20,000
Patching	£ 70,000

3.10 The patching work will be issued to our contractor during July and we will expect it to be completed by September. The work will be dense macadam materials, and will remove problem locations which do not currently meet the intervention criteria, but would deteriorate in the future. The surface dressing will be undertaken this August within our planned programme. The limited extra micro-asphalt work will also be included with our current planned programme which will commence in July.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The allocation of £206,000 will be added to the Capital Programme for Highways Maintenance 2016/17.

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The maintenance of highways is a statutory duty for the Council as local highway authority for Wirral.

#### **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

6.1 The programme of work to use this allocation, as described in 2.6 to 2.10 above, will be prepared, managed and reported using existing employee resources and our term Highway Services Contractor.

#### **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

7.1 Failure to meet the terms and conditions agreed with DfT may result in the Council having to return part or all of the allocation, and might jeopardise future allocations. The proposals will be planned in discussion with our contractor, to ensure that the work is scheduled alongside already planned maintenance programmes for 2016/17, and that records are maintained and published as required by DfT.

## 8.0 ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION

8.1 Whilst there will be no consultation, the Council will publish the planned programme of work to be carried out and will report at the end of the year on the activity carried out.

## 9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(a) Yes and impact review is attached

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-april-2014/eias-regeneration-envir>

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## APPENDICES

None

## BACKGROUND PAPERS/REFERENCE MATERIAL

The Parliamentary Under Secretary for State, Andrew Jones MP, announced details of the 2016/17 funding allocations for the Pothole Action Fund, which can be viewed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-future-of-funding-for-road-maintenance>

The Pothole Action fund allocations for Wirral Council and other authorities can be viewed at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/514524/160321-highways-maintenance-201516-201617.csv/preview](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/514524/160321-highways-maintenance-201516-201617.csv/preview)

## SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
None	