

DfT Pothole Fund Allocation – Quarterly Report for the period ending 30 Sept 2014

Background

In the 2014 Budget statement, the Government announced the creation of a Pothole Fund worth £200 million, with £168 million being made available to highway authorities in England to help repair damage to the local road network. The funding is available in the 2014/15 financial year.

TfL and London Boroughs were eligible to bid for up to £10m of the Fund and Merton have been allocated £218,622. This allocation has to be used to permanently fix potholes on the road or prevent them from forming in the first place. The funding must complement (rather than displace) our current planned maintenance expenditure for 2014/15.

Any planned or reactive work undertaken has to give due regard to minimising disruption to businesses and road users and therefore may require restricted working where cost effective.

How the funding has been allocated

The funding was split between planned resurfacing and reactive maintenance to effectively improve the overall condition of the adopted public highway network and is in line with the following DfT recommendations:

⇒ Prevention is better than cure – intervening at the right time will reduce the amount of potholes forming and prevent bigger problems later.

Planned resurfacing

⇒ Right First Time – do it once and get it right, rather than face continuous bills.

Reactive maintenance

Planned resurfacing:

From the Highway safety Inspector (HSI) records, we identified five roads where the total reactive maintenance work required was in excess of 30 sqm and therefore resurfacing is more cost effective than sporadic patching.

Resurfacing these roads will permanently repair all the potholes in the road and also provide a safe surface that should remain serviceable for the next 30 years. These works have not yet commenced but are programmed to be undertaken as follows:

Thurleston Avenue – 24, 25 & 26 November 2014;
Bronson Road – 8 & 9 December 2014; and
Malling Gardens, Marham Gardens and Melsa Road – 3 & 4 February 2015.

Residents in these roads will be notified of the works at least 2 weeks prior to the works commencing on site.

The estimated cost to resurface these roads is £130,000.

Reactive maintenance:

The remaining allocation of £88,622 has been used to complement the current reactive maintenance budget and has been profiled to be spent equally across the borough for the remaining months of this year.

So far this year we have spent £15,000 and repaired an additional 250 potholes, which is equivalent to 100 sqm of carriageway.

Since most of the serious potholes appear following the cold winter months we will be using most of the allocation for early intervention measures when they appear.

This Quarterly Report has been sent to the DfT.