

Wiltshire Highways Additional Funding



November 2018

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Introduction

Wiltshire Council has committed £8 million to support towns and communities across the county.

A major programme to deliver further improvements to local highway maintenance, including repair of potholes, improve white lining, weed removal, kerb and pavement improvements, verges and improved road signage, will be implemented.

The additional funding comes from £7,358,000 provided by the Department for Transport, with the remainder coming from increased Council revenue expenditure proposed for the highway service in 2019/20.

The Council also has a major programme of capital expenditure on roads surfacing, bridges, street lighting and flood alleviation which is expected to be in the region of £20,000,000 for 2019/20.

The proposed additional expenditure is outlined below. It should be noted that actual expenditure may vary between items in response to circumstances, such as weather damage, weed growth, incidents or safety priorities.

Proposed Works

Road Surfacing and Patching - £3,028,000



Funding will be used to surface, seal and protect the county's roads to prevent potholes forming.

The majority of the additional funding will be used to augment the major maintenance surfacing programme in order to increase the number of roads surfaced to prevent potholes forming, and to further reduce the maintenance backlog on the network.

Footway Resurfacing - £1,000,000

A major investment will be made in addressing the backlog of maintenance needed on the county's footways and pedestrian areas. The funding will be used to address local priorities across the county and continues the programme started in previous years.

Pothole Repairs - £500,000



Funding will be used to repair potholes as soon as they form.

Four pothole gangs will operate to address emergency repairs as potholes and defects occur. There will be three mobile gangs using tubs of material to make quick repairs, and a gang with a machine for where more substantial repairs are required.

Pothole Patching - £400,000

A carriageway repair machine called a Fastpatch will operate throughout the year to deal with the larger areas in need of repair, but where full resurfacing of the whole road would not be justified.

Velocity Patcher - £500,000

The velocity patcher has operated successfully during the summer in recent years and is particularly effective at dealing with deterioration on minor rural roads. The additional expenditure allows a larger programme to be operated in summer 2019.

Masonry Repairs - £200,000



Funding will be used to repair footways and paved areas.

Some of the funding will be used to carry out repairs to paving slabs, kerbs and gullies in response to defects. This will be used on the smaller areas in need of repair not included in the major repairs programme.

Verge Overrun - £500,000



Funding will be used to repair damaged road verges.

The rural grass verges can be damaged by large vehicles, or by vehicles leaving the paved surface to pass other vehicles. This is particularly a problem during wet weather. A programme of verge repair and hardening has been taking place during 2018, and an expanded programme will take place during 2019 to address those sites with the most damage.

Road Markings in Towns - £500,000

Programmes of white line and road marking renewal have been taking place, most recently in Trowbridge, Chippenham and Salisbury. The programme will continue in Royal Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Cricklade and Westbury, as well as addressing particular sites in other towns in need of treatment.

Road Markings at Rural Roads and Junctions - £300,000



Funding will be used to replace worn road markings and cats-eyes.

As well as improving road markings in the towns, a programme of lining improvements on rural roads and at junctions will be carried out in 2019. This will concentrate on locations where lines are fading or being worn away and there are increasing safety risks, especially at junctions.

Road Signs - £300,000

Priority is currently given to replacing safety critical signs, such as give way and stop signs. The intention is to continue doing this, but also to replace some of the most damaged or worn direction and other signs as part of an ongoing programme.

High Friction Surfacing - £50,000

At approaches to traffic signals and crossings, high friction surfacing is used in many locations. Unfortunately, this can be subject to intense wear and often needs to be renewed to ensure it is effective. It is proposed to replace existing surfacing at a number of sites with more robust material.

Pedestrian Guardrails - £50,000



Funding will be used to replace or repair damaged pedestrian guardrails.

Funding will be available to enable replacement and repair of pedestrian guardrails which have been damaged or are in poor condition. These will be prioritised in terms of the sites with the greatest safety risk.

Other Street Furniture - £30,000

There is street furniture in the highway which can pose a safety hazard to the public if these are not kept in good condition. These can include litter bins, seating, planters and local signing. Much of this is owned by the town or parish councils, but there are items which are the responsibility of Wiltshire Council.

Weed Removal in Town Centres - £30,000

Weed control has been a challenge in recent years with the weather and limited funding. The additional funding will help improve the appearance of our town centres by the hand removal of weeds.

Weed Spraying - £120,000

Treatment of weeds in the highways and public spaces has been limited because of funding constraints. The additional funding will enable a county wide programme of weed treatment in residential and urban areas.

Chewing Gum Removal - £30,000

The council has a statutory duty to clear chewing gum from pavements when at an unacceptable level. The cleaning of chewing gum from paved areas is not easy and is an expensive process. The council currently has no service to remove chewing gum. This funding will allow a reactive service to be provided when complaints are received, but will not fund the cleaning of large areas.

Graffiti Removal - £50,000

Graffiti is generally not a serious problem in most parts of the county, but it is important that in those areas where it does occur, it is dealt with promptly and in a manner that improves the resulting appearance of the area.

Enhanced Gully Emptying - £170,000

There is a programme of gully emptying which focuses on those with the greatest risk in order to make best use of the limited funding. Regular targeted gully emptying is important to ensure the effective drainage of our roads and public areas.

The £90,000 of the additional funding will provide extra scheduled gully emptying to areas that have a flood plan, to reduce flooding risks.

The remaining £80,000 will enable 300 additional days of discretionary work by a team to address sites of concern to the town and parish councils.

Ditch clearing - £70,000

Keeping road side highway ditches clear is necessary to ensure effective drainage of the roads and footways. Unfortunately, limited revenue funding has meant that it has not been possible to carry out as much as would have been wished. The additional funding is expected to enable 18 of the worst sites to be addressed.

Sweeping - £50,000

It is proposed to carry out additional street sweeping, particularly to improve the appearance of our towns. The funding will also allow the Council to undertake more work across the county at times of peak seasonal demand to address leaf and blossom fall.