

Decision Maker: PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

Date: 25th January 2023

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: PLANNED HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

Contact Officer: Garry Warner, Assistant Director (Highways)
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Chief Officer: Colin Brand, Director of Environment & Public Protection

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

This report recommends a programme of planned carriageway maintenance projects to be funded from existing revenue budgets.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That the Environment Portfolio Holder:

- i) **Agrees that the schemes listed in Appendix 'A' is included in a programme of planned highway maintenance for 2023/24, to be undertaken by the Council's existing highway term maintenance contractor;**
- ii) **Agrees that the decision to include additional schemes in the programme be delegated to the Director of Environment & Public Protection, based on the results of further condition assessments.**

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: None
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Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council Quality Environment Safe Bromley Vibrant, Thriving Town Centres :
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Estimated Cost : £2.6m
 2. Ongoing costs: Recurring Cost : None
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Highways planned maintenance
 4. Total current budget for this head: £2.6m
 5. Source of funding: Revenue budget 2023/24
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Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 3 fte
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: 3 fte
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement :
 2. Call-in: Applicable:
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Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: None
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): Borough wide
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Yes
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: a verbal update will be provided at the meeting

3. COMMENTARY

Background

- 3.1 Bromley's highway assets include 547 miles (880Km) of carriageways and 885 miles (1,425 Km) of footways. It is a highly visible asset used by most residents and businesses daily. A well-maintained highway facilitates safe and reliable travel for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists, and contributes to the vitality of the borough and the local economy. The highway network has a gross replacement cost of approximately £1.5 bn. according to the most recent submission to HM Treasury.
- 3.2 Maintaining the highway asset through timely intervention reduces the need for more expensive maintenance treatments at a later date, along with the demand for reactive maintenance, such as repairing potholes and broken paving. This improves value for money and customer satisfaction, reduces unplanned network disruption, and contributes to reducing third party claims for damages. There is a strong case for continued investment in planned maintenance of the highway asset.
- 3.3 While the Council is responsible for maintenance of roads forming part of the Principal Road Network (PRN) within the borough; classified 'A' roads, planned maintenance, such as resurfacing, and reconstruction works have traditionally been funded by Transport for London (TfL). Funding for such schemes across the capital has recently been reinstated, although at much reduced levels, and Officers will continue to seek funding for suitable maintenance schemes for 2023/24 once TfL have confirmed the bidding process.

Condition Monitoring

- 3.4 The condition of the borough's highway network is carefully monitored through regular safety inspections to identify safety defects, along with carriageways and footways that would benefit from planned maintenance; resurfacing or reconstruction.
- 3.5 While traditionally carriageway condition surveys of the boroughs non-principal and unclassified roads have been undertaken through visual inspection of the road surfaces by experienced inspectors, advances in technology have recently allowed surveys to be automated through the analysis of video surveys using artificial intelligence (AI). An initial boroughwide AI survey was completed last winter using vehicle mounted cameras along with GPS location technology, and a further survey undertaken during the summer. This data has been processed using the Visalia RoadAI web-based software with initial results providing good correlation between the video evidence, identified defects and calculated condition indices.
- 3.6 As carriageways deteriorate through weathering and the acts of traffic, the requirement for protective or more structural maintenance can be predicted with some accuracy. Most of the footways in the borough are surfaced with paving slabs, and the main causes of their deterioration is root damage from street trees, utility company excavations and over-running vehicles, all of which have been effectively managed through reactive and minor works. This was verified in the results of surveys which confirmed that, as an asset, Bromley's footways are in a better structural condition than the carriageways.

Proposed Planned Works Programme

- 3.7 The Council's revenue budget includes £2.6m has for planned highway maintenance during 2023/24, to include carriageway and footway resurfacing / reconstruction.
- 3.8 Results of recent treatment surveys confirm that future investment should be focussed on maintaining those carriageways with the highest priority to obtain long-term benefits, with

footway maintenance continuing to rely on reactive and minor works to deal with the short-term damaging factors. While a number of asphalt footways have been resurfaced this year, future schemes are currently being identified through visual inspections and will be included in later phases of the 2022/23 programme.

- 3.9 With the limited revenue budgets available it is not possible to resurface all roads identified as being in need of maintenance. Priorities for carriageway planned works have therefore been identified using the RoadAI survey results, along with factors such as use and location on the network. Those roads with the highest overall priority have been put forward for planned works programmes in accordance with annual budget provision, as detailed in Appendix 'A'.
- 3.10 Existing budgets will allow for additional schemes to be completed during 2023/24, and it is proposed that the decision to include schemes in the programme be delegated to the Director of Environment & Public Protection, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, based on the results of further condition assessments.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Environment Portfolio Plan includes the key aim “To continue to invest in a timely and effective manner in our roads and pavements to maintain the value of our highway asset”. The Plan (item 4.4) identifies the Council will “Improve the condition of the of the highway network by completing an approved major programme of road and pavement resurfacing”.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The total controllable budget for Highways Planned Maintenance is £2.6m. The budget is located in the Highways Cost centre, R60610.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Under the Highways Act 1980, the Council, as Highway Authority, has duties to ensure the safe passage of highway users and to maintain the highway.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Impact on vulnerable adults and children Personnel implications Procurement implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	

Proposed Carriageway Maintenance Programme 2023/24

1. Alexander Close	Hayes
2. Aperfield Road	Biggin Hill
3. Axtaine Road	Orpington
4. Belvedere Road	Biggin Hill
5. Berry's Green Road	Cudham
6. Bramerton Road	Beckenham
7. Chessington Way	West Wickham
8. Church Road	Chelsfield
9. Commonsidge	Keston
10. Downs Avenue	Chislehurst
11. Fosters Close	Chislehurst
12. Fox Lane	Keston
13. Hallam Close	Chislehurst
14. Melanda Close	Chislehurst
15. Hawkhurst Way	West Wickham
16. Hawthorn Drive	West Wickham
17. High Beeches	Chelsfield
18. Jewels Hill	Biggin Hill
19. Lawn Close	Bromley
20. Lotus Road	Biggin Hill
21. Mayfield Road	Bickley
22. North Pole Lane	Keston
23. Old Hill	Chislehurst
24. Park Hill	Bickley
25. Petten Grove	Orpington
26. Ramsden Road	Orpington
27. Romney Drive	Bromley
28. Southlands Road	Bickley
29. Stock Hill	Biggin Hill
30. The Gardens	Beckenham
31. The Glade	West Wickham
32. Waldegrave Road	Bickley
33. Westmoreland Road	Bromley
34. Willow Close	Orpington