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

Date: 13th March 2024

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: PLANNED HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

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 and footway maintenance projects to be funded from existing revenue budgets and DfT grant funding.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety :

- i) **Agrees that the schemes listed in Appendix 'A' is included in a programme of planned highway maintenance for 2024/25, 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.**
- iii) **Agrees that the additional grant funding received from the Department for Transport is utilised to improve the condition of the borough's principal road network;**

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 revenue and £0.455 capital (DfT grant)
 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 2024/25 and Capital (DfT grant)
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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 safety repairs 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). A report was considered by the PDS in June 2023 (ES20294), which noted the reduced budget allocations for such works since 2017/18.
- 3.4 In October 2023, the government announced £8.3 billion of additional highways maintenance funding over the next 10 years for local road resurfacing and wider maintenance activity on the local highway network. As part of this London was allocated £7.531m p.a., with LB Bromley, as Londons longest road network, receiving £0.455m for 2023/24 and 2024/25, and further allocations due in the coming years.

Condition Monitoring

- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 While traditionally carriageway condition surveys of the boroughs non-principal and unclassified roads have been undertaken though 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.
- 3.7 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 deteriorate 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 that the carriageways.

Proposed Planned Works Programme

- 3.8 The Council's revenue budget includes £2.6m has for planned highway maintenance during 2023/24, to include carriageway and footway resurfacing / reconstruction.
- 3.9 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, such as vehicle damage and utility works..
- 3.10 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'.
- 3.11 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.
- 3.12 It is proposed that the additional highways maintenance funding of £0.445m provided by the DfT is utilised to improve the condition of the principal road network, through a mixture of localised patching and small resurfacing schemes. In addition to schemes included in Appendix 'A', other works will be identified during the year from condition surveys and customer enquires.

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 This report proposes to utilise the capital grant for Local Highways Maintenance, which represents additional funding received from the Department for Transport. The funding will be used over a 10-year period, starting in 2023-2024. The funding is for local road resurfacing and the wider maintenance of the local highway network.

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 2024/25

			Extent	Ward
2024/5 Principal Road schemes				
1	Bickley Road	Bickley	Chislehurst Road to Page Heath Lane	Bickley & Sundridge
2	Croydon Road	Beckenham	Langley Road to Upper Elmers End Road	Clock House/ Kelsey & Eden Park
3	Crystal Palace Parade	Penge	Outside Bus Station	Crystal Palace & Anerley
4	High Street	Chislehurst	Greenway to Centre Common Road	Chislehurst
5	Orpington War memorial	Orpington	Approaches to roundabout and roundabout	Orpington
Reserve 2024/5 Principal Road schemes				
6	Anerley Hill	Penge	Crystal Palace Parade to Thicket Road	Crystal Palace & Anerley
7	Court Road	Orpington	Avalon Road to Ramsden Road	Orpington Ward
8	Orpington Road	Orpington	Leesons Hill to Chislehurst Road Bridge	Chislehurst
9	Station Road	Orpington	Complete length	Orpington
10	Widmore Road	Bromley	Tweedy Road to Freelands Road	Bromley Town
2024/5 Non-principal Road schemes				
11	Chelsfield Lane	Chelsfield	Part	St Mary Cray
12	Chorleywood Crescent	St Pauls Cray	Part	St Pauls Cray
13	Crofton Lane	Orpington	Part	Farnborough & Crofton
14	Farnborough Hill	Farnborough	Part	Farnborough & Crofton
15	Hawes Lane	West Wickham	Part	West Wickham
16	Kent House Road	Penge	Part	Penge & Cator
17	Lennard Road	Penge	Part	Penge & Cator
18	Lovibonds Avenue	Farnborough	Part	Farnborough & Crofton
19	Midfield Way	St Pauls Cray	Part	St Pauls Cray
20	Park Road	Bromley	Part	Bromley Town
21	Polesteeples Hill	Biggin Hill	Part	Biggin Hill
22	Southlands Grove	Bickley	Part	Bickley & Sundridge
23	Springfield Gardens	Bickley	Part	Bickley & Sundridge
24	Starts Hill Road	Farnborough	Part	Farnborough & Crofton
25	Station Square	Petts Wood	Part	Petts Wood & Knoll
26	The Avenue	Bickley	Part	Bickley & Sundridge
27	Westbury Road	Penge	Part	Penge & Cator
28	Wood Lodge Lane	West Wickham	Part	West Wickham