

Report Title:	Member Call In - Proposed revisions to the Highways Maintenance Management Plan – 24 hour pothole response
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information?	No - Part I
Meeting and Date:	Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Panel 18 June 2019

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In accordance with Part 3 B7 and Part 4 A16 of the Constitution, the 30 May 2019 Cabinet decision relating to the item 'Proposed revisions to the Highways Maintenance Management Plan – 24 hour pothole response' has been called in for review by the Infrastructure Overview & Scrutiny Panel.

1. REASON(S) FOR CALL IN

1.1 The call-in notice, submitted on 6 June 2019, stated the following reasons for calling in the decision:

- 'The Recommendation (Decision) detailed in the paper does not reflect the report. It does not include the discretion of the inspector to negate the repair in favour of resurfacing.'
- 'There is insufficient detail regarding 'value for money', comparison with current rates, options considered and the justifications for spending £450k when we are looking to reduce the revenue budget by £4 million. Where are the funds coming from? What are the ramifications?'

2. MEMBERS CALLING IN THE REPORT

2.1 The call-in notice was signed by the following Members: Councillors W Da Costa, Hill, Jones, Davey and C Da Costa.

3. Panel Options

3.1 Having considered the Call-In the Overview and Scrutiny Panel may:

- Take no further action – if the panel decide that no further action is required the decision will take effect immediately;

OR

- Refer the decision back to the decision-maker – the panel can refer the item back to the decision maker for consideration (Cabinet in this instance) setting out the nature of the Panel's concerns; the decision-maker must then re-consider the matter within a further 5 working days, taking into account the concerns of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel, before making a final decision;

OR

- Refer the matter to full Council – if the matter is referred to full Council and the Council does not object to a decision which has been made, then no further action is necessary and the decision will be effective. However, if the Council does object, it has no locus to make decisions in respect of an executive decision unless it is contrary to the Policy Framework, or contrary to or not wholly consistent with the Budget. Unless that is the case, the Council will refer any decision back to the decision maker, together with the Council's view on the decision. That decision making body or person shall choose whether to amend the decision or not before reaching a final decision and implementing it. Where the decision was taken by the Cabinet as a whole or a committee of it, a meeting will be convened to reconsider within 5 clear working days of the Council request. Where the decision was made by an individual, the individual will reconsider within 5 clear working days of the Council request. If the Council does not meet, or if it does but does not refer the decision back to the decision making body or person, the decision will become effective on the date of the Council meeting or expiry of the period in which the Council meeting should have been held, whichever is the earlier.

OR

- Refer the matter to a sub group of the Panel for further consideration and report back to the Panel within a specified period not exceeding 14 days, in which case the Panel will, at its reconvened meeting, take one of the decisions set out above; if the Panel does not reconvene within 14 days or does reconvene but does not refer the matter back to the decision maker or to the full Council, the decision will take effect on the date of the reconvened Panel meeting or the expiry of that further 14 day period, whichever is the earlier.

4. APPENDICES

4.1 This report is supported by two appendices:

- Cabinet Decision 30 May 2019
- Cabinet report 30 May 2019- '[Proposed revisions to the Highways Maintenance Management Plan – 24 hour pothole response](#)' Electronic version only.

5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

5.1 This report is supported by two background documents:

- Council Constitution – Part 4 A - Purpose and Procedure Rules for O&S
- Cabinet agenda – 30 May 2019

Appendix A

CABINET DRAFT MINUTES – 30 May 2019

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT PLAN – 24 HOUR POT HOLE RESPONSE

The Lead Member for Infrastructure, Transport Policy and Housing introduced the report that asked for a revision to the Highways Maintenance Management Plan to enable every carriageway pothole to be repaired within 24 hours.

The Lead Member informed that he was delighted to be presenting the report that fulfilled one of the administration's pledges of investing more than £50 million in RBWM highways and pavements over the next four years, fixing every reported pothole within 24 hours and introducing an inspection regime for every road every year. This was a 'Best in Berkshire Pot Hole Pledge'.

Cabinet were informed that this was an extension of the existing policy and that when a road was inspected if it was deemed that the condition of the road was such that resurfacing was more appropriate than fixing a pothole then this would take priority.

The proposals were being put to Cabinet as this was a key priority for residents and improvements would further enhance the boroughs infrastructure, benefiting cyclists and other road users.

Cllr Hill informed Cabinet that he felt that the recommendation should be amended as it a pothole was not being repaired within 24 hours due to the condition of the road than this was not fulfilling the pledge.

Cllr Hill supported improvement to the road infrastructure but noted that insurance claims were down and that the number of potholes currently not fixed within 24 hours was about 500 per year. He felt that adding an additional £450,000, equating to about £900 per pothole repair, was a lot of money when the council was overspent.

The Chairman informed that it was anticipated that there would be more reported potholes and following this increase we should reach a base level of repairs required due to adverse weather conditions. The main priority was to implement residents wishes and if further funding was required then a further report would be brought before members.

The Lead Member for Culture, Communities and Windsor informed that this was an excellent paper delivering what our residents wanted. She highlighted the new 'report it' section on the RBWM website that made reporting potholes and other issues easier.

Resolved unanimously: That Cabinet notes the report and:

- i) Approves a revision to the Highways Maintenance Management Plan to enable every carriageway pothole over 40mm, or footway defect over 25mm to be repaired within 24 working hours regardless of the category of road, at an additional annual cost of £450,000**