

ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Highways Operations Update

March 2021

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Carriageways

Funding

Additional funding of £12M has been made available for the improvement of the Worcestershire's carriageway asset. This has been split equally over two financial years – 2020/21 & 2021/22

DfT funding for carriageways for 2020/21 is £14.4M.

The combined funding available for carriageway improvements is £20.4M

Carriageways Cont.

How does this funding compare to previous years?

Year	Dft Funding	WCC Funding	Total
2017/18	£9.8M	£4.2M	£14.0M
2018/19	£10.6M	£4.0M	£14.6M
2019/20	£9.8M	£3.8M	£13.6M
2020/21	£14.4M	£6.0M	£20.4M

The final budget for 2021/22 has not yet been finalised but it is expected to be Circa £20M

Carriageways Cont.

Current Strategy

Strive for road condition to be in the Upper Quartile of condition of A, B, C and U roads in Worcestershire measured with the national average of road condition.

Annual Programme

In order to get best value from structural maintenance funding, schemes are prioritised using a number of factors but including road condition data, defect data (number of pothole repairs), engineer site assessments as well as cost/benefit analysis

Footways

Funding

Additional funding of £8M has been made available for the improvement of the Worcestershire's footway asset. This has been split equally over two financial years – 2020/21 & 2021/22

DfT funding for Footways for 2020/21 is £2.43M.

£1.8M of this fund is utilised for structural renewals. The remainder is utilised for other footway treatments including preventative treatments such as thin micro-surfacing overlay.

There has also been addition funding provided through the New Members Highways Fund. To date, circa £1.5M of the available £2.5M Fund has been spent on footway renewal schemes.

Footways Cont.

Footway Hierarchy

The total length of the footway network amounts to circa 3,400km and has been divided into the following categories

Main Shopping Areas

Busy Urban

Less Used / Quite Urban

Busy Rural



Footways Cont.

Funding Allocation

Recent asset trend analysis shows steady improvement for all footway categories. Therefore, available funding is prioritised and allocated based on the following factors:

- Information and modelling scenarios provided by the Asset Management Team. This identifies the lengths of footways requiring treatment in all categories of footway.
- Identified footways defects and clusters of defects (Advisories raised by Highways Inspectors or Liaison Engineers on behalf of Members).
- Third Party Claims information in relation to footways.
- An onsite engineering assessment of each footway identified from the above information.



Footways Cont.

Forward Programme

The funding allocation for 2021/22 is expected to be circa £7.3M. However this may increase if additional footways are funded through the New Members Highways Fund (£1.25M for 2021/22).

The Core budget allocation has already been agreed and passed to Ringway to programme for next year.

Members have each been sent a list of proposed schemes for their Division. A good deal of Members have already replied and agreed with our proposals.

Sufficient schemes have already been passed to Ringway to allow them to programme up to November

It is likely that the annual programme will require between 10 – 12 gangs working throughout the year to deliver the full budget allocation.



Public Rights of Way

Enhancements 2021/22

The funding allocation for 2021/22 has been increased by £500k Capital and £100k revenue in order to enhance the PRow network.

A project group has been established to ensure that the additional works are carried out efficiently and effectively, within budget and with member approval

Funding will be deployed across a variety of schemes including:

- Traditional PRow works (Gates, styles, footpaths, signage etc.)
- Structures – bridges
- Enhancement of well used footpaths
- A mixture of urban and rural rights of way ensure accessibility

Designed to ensure that value is added to the PRow network, at a time when it being used more than ever



Cyclical Drainage

Gully Cleaning Update

There are circa 104,000 gullies on the Worcestershire highways network. There are also circa 10,000 additional drainage assets such as grips and spillways.

During 2019/20, significant resources were deployed to cleanse the County's drainage assets and improve the asset data recording and reporting functions.

During the past few months Ringway have utilised resources both within Worcestershire and on other contracts to analyse the new data to produce a revamped optimised cleansing schedule.

All drainage assets have now been prioritised based on recent and historic data. This prioritisation will determine the cleansing frequency for each gully. E.g. Monthly, quarterly, six monthly, annually or bi-annually.



Cyclical Drainage Cont.

Mapping Systems

Each Gully has a unique ID reference and has been accurately plotted on the Council's GIS mapping system

Through GIS, each gully can be interrogated to determine the following

Unique ID reference

Cleaning frequency

Date last attended

Known issues



Cyclical Drainage Cont.

Online Mapping System

This system is in the final stages of development. This is in two parts:

1. Ensuring the data is accurate and fit for purpose
2. Ensuring the functionality of the system is compatible with the existing 'report it' function on the WCC website

Both parts of this development are progressing well and a demonstration of the system will take place later this month.

A trial period will then commence with a limited amount of users to ensure any glitches are identified and rectified before the platform is launched.

Cyclical Drainage Cont.

GIS Platform

The screenshot shows a GIS application interface with a map of a road network. A popup window titled 'Ringway Drain Info' is open, displaying the following data:

Gully_ID	WG026858
Eastings	379319
Northings	248413
Zone	Area 3 - Zone 22
Location Number	2138
Address	Worcester Road, Great Malvern, WR14 1, England
Cycle	Annually
Road Class	A
Drainage Type	Gully
Cleanse Status	Emptied- Gully Emptier
Attended Date	18/11/2019 10:45:16
Silt Levels	Half Full (50%)
Traffic Management	Stop & Go
Vehicle Reg	worcs.f03@AKEN
Have you Relocated the Gully?	No

The map shows a road network with various features like 'Clarence Park', 'Madeley Brook', and 'Woodlands R'. A blue arrow points from the popup window to a specific gully on the map.



Cyclical Drainage Cont.

Next Steps

Additional drainage funding has been made available next year which will be used to provide the necessary resource to repair many of the defects identified during the recent gully emptying activities.

The new asset data system provides sophisticated reporting functions that allow us to identify and cluster similar defects into work streams

In preparation for next financial year, works programmes are already in development to ensure works can start at the beginning of April.

Whilst this is still a work in progress, we envisage there will be three additional drainage crews next year as well as an additional jetting resource capable of high pressure jetting and root cutting.

Any Questions...



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