



Report to Council

Date:	21 July 2021
Reference number:	N/A
Title:	Additional £3 million Investment in Roads
Relevant councillor(s):	Martin Tett – Leader, Steven Broadbent – Cabinet Member for Transport
Author and/or contact officer:	Rob Smith (Service Director – Highways and Technical Services) / Sue Palmer (Capital Programme Manager)
Ward(s) affected:	All
Recommendations:	Council approve the investment of an additional £3 million in highways maintenance during 2021/22, which will be funded from uncommitted earmarked reserves.
Reason for decision:	Investment in improving the quality of our road network is very high priority for Buckinghamshire Council.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 Given the Council's high priority for improving Buckinghamshire's roads, a further £3 million be added to the budget that was agreed at Council in February 2021 for highway maintenance (£2.5 million to address potholes using Plane and Patch, £0.5million for road markings).

2. Content of report

- 2.1 The current approved budget on roads for 2021/22 is £23.9m, prior to the approval of an additional £3m by Council. This will bring the total investment on roads to £26.9m in 2021/22 and £97.625m over the next four years. The total investment on roads and footways is budgeted at over £100m across the 4-year Medium Term Financial Plan. A breakdown of this is shown in Appendix A.

- 2.2 The Council has made highways maintenance a high priority in its Corporate Plan.
- 2.3 Within this, locally identified Plane and Patch works to repair potholes and road marking improvements are seen as a very effective way of achieving this priority.
- 2.4 It is suggested here that investing a further £3 million (split £2.5 million for Plane and Patch and £0.5 million for road markings) from uncommitted earmarked reserves is a productive and prudent investment of council funds.
- 2.5 It has been confirmed that TfB can deliver this extra work in the current financial year by bringing in extra resources. This funding will be for the year 2021/22.
- 2.6 Local members will be consulted on locations for this investment to ensure that priority locations are addressed.

3. Legal and financial implications

- 3.1 Under the Council's Constitution the allocation of un-ringfenced resources to increase the budget approved by Council in February 2021 requires a formal decision.

4. Corporate implications

- 4.1 This additional investment will contribute to the Council 's priority of improving the highways network across the County.

5. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

- 5.1 Local members will be consulted on the distribution of this extra investment.

6. Communication, engagement & further consultation

- 6.1 As noted, Local members will be consulted on the distribution of this investment and a communications plan will be implemented to ensure residents and businesses are aware of the planned investment.

7. Next steps and review

- 7.1 Delivery resources are being secured that will enable the road marking works to commence in September and the extra Plane and patch works to commence in October 2021. All works will be delivered by the end of the 2021/22 financial year.
- 7.2 Delivery of the works funded by this investment will be closely monitored by officers and the Cabinet Member for Transport.

8. Background papers

8.1 None



ROADS AND FOOTWAYS APPROVED BUDGETS

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	TOTAL
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
ROADS - CAPITAL:					
Strategic Highways	15,000	15,400	15,800	16,200	
Plane & Patch	5,325	4,425	4,025	3,625	
Failed Roads Haunching & Reconstruction	0	3,000	0	0	
Carry Forward from 2020/21	825				
TOTAL ROADS - CAPITAL	21,150	22,825	19,825	19,825	83,625
ROADS – REVENUE	2,750	2,750	2,750	2,750	11,000
ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT (subject to council approval)	3,000	0	0	0	3,000
TOTAL ROADS	26,900	25,575	22,575	22,575	97,625
FOOTWAYS - STRUCTURAL	2,000	2,050	2,100	2,150	8,300