

Municipal Buildings, Greenock PA15 1LY

Ref: RMcG/AI

Date: 3 February 2010

**I refer to the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 2 February 2010 and now enclose report as undernoted which the Committee agreed to consider as an Additional Agenda Item.**

ELAINE PATERSON  
Head of Legal & Administration

**Undernote**

**Additional Item**

**Increased Pavements/Pothole Repairs - 2009/10**  
Report by Chief Executive

Enquiries to - **Rona McGhee** - Tel 01475 712113

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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Policy &amp; Resources Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>2 February 2010</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>FIN/12/10/AP/GJ</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Alan Puckrin</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712223</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Increased Pavements/Pothole Repairs – 2009/10</b>		

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### 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval for the Council to allocate a further £200,000 to Emergency Pothole and Pavement Repairs to be carried out in 2009/10 as a response to the severe winter weather experienced during December and early January.

### 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The majority of Britain experienced exceptionally severe winter weather during the second half of December and the first half of January. This generated a number of challenges for Councils in terms of responding to the severe weather, funding the increased costs for extra gritting/snow clearing and the impact the severe weather would have on the existing road and pavement infrastructure once the ice and snow had melted.
- 2.2 The Head of Environmental Services has confirmed that the Council has just over £100,000 remaining in his annual £400,000 Pothole Maintenance Budget in 2009/10.
- 2.3 During the autumn of 2009 the Council had its triennial review of the insurance fund and as reported to Members during the budget process the outcome of the review was that the actuary confirmed that contributions from Service Departments to the fund were at an appropriate level however the fund balance is approximately £1 million more than he would recommend based on the Council's claims history.
- 2.4 Taking these two issues into account it is proposed that in recognition of the exceptionally severe weather conditions experienced over the Christmas/New Year period, Pothole and Repairs Expenditure be increased by a further £200,000 on the basis that this allocation be fully utilised by 31 March 2010. The Head of Environmental Services has confirmed that he is confident that an increase in expenditure of this level could be fully delivered by the end of the financial year.
- 2.5 It is proposed that this £200,000 increase in expenditure effectively be met by the Insurance Fund by reducing Service contributions to the Insurance Fund during 2009/10.
- 2.6 Committee will be aware that there is a Winter Maintenance Review ongoing and this proposed investment does not pre-empt the findings from that review. A report will go to the appropriate Committee once the review is concluded.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee approve the allocation of a one-off sum of £200,000 to Pothole and Pavement Repairs in 2009/10 and note that this will be funded via a reduction in the balance in the Council's Insurance Fund.

John Mundell  
Chief Executive