
Report To:	Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee	Date:	18th January 2010
Report By:	Corporate Director, Regeneration & Environment/Chief Financial Officer	Report No:	FIN/03/11/AP/LM
Contact Officer:	Alan Puckrin	Contact No:	01475 712223
Subject:	Roads Maintenance Budget 2010/11		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Committee in respect of the pressures on the Roads Maintenance Budget arising from the severe winter weather.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 In 2010/11 the Council allocated a Roads Maintenance Revenue Budget of £754,000 plus a Winter Maintenance Budget of £258,000. In addition the Council allocated a one off sum of £400,000 in 2010/11 for extra pothole repairs, this sum being funded from the General Fund Reserves.
- 2.2 By Christmas 2010 the Winter Maintenance Budget was fully expended and depending on the weather for the remainder of the winter there is a projected overspend of up to £200,000. There is approximately £280,000 remaining of the £1.154 million Roads, Footways and Gullies Maintenance Budget however as things stand up to £200,000 of this will need to be ring fenced to fund the winter maintenance overspend.
- 2.3 Now that the pre Christmas snow and ice have largely cleared it is apparent that there are considerable numbers of potholes and footway maintenance issues which need to be addressed as a matter of urgency. It is therefore proposed that the Committee agree to seek Policy and Resources approval for extra funding to be allocated during 2010/11 in order that as much work as possible can be carried out in the remainder of the financial year.
- 2.4 It is proposed therefore that the projected overspend on winter maintenance of up to £200,000 be funded from the Council's contingency fund which is held for such eventualities. The use of the contingency fund will require Policy & Resources approval.
- 2.5 Senior Officers within Environmental and Commercial Services have indicated that provided approval to spend the money is given at the Policy & Resources Committee on the 8th February 2011 and the weather conditions are in line with seasonal norms, then they should be able to spend an additional £200,000 on road and footway repairs by the 31st March thus addressing a large proportion of the most urgent repairs.
- 2.6 The two proposals above effectively give an extra £400,000 for Roads/Footway maintenance compared to the position were the Committee to contain the Winter Maintenance overspend.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the latest position in respect of Roads Maintenance Budgets in 2010/11 and agree that the report be remitted to the Policy & Resources Committee for the approval of up to £200,000 projected overspend in winter maintenance to be funded from the Council's General Fund Contingency and a one off sum of £200,000 for extra pavement/roads repairs to be funded from the Council's General Fund Reserve in 2010/11.

Alan Puckrin
Chief Financial Officer