

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

ASHINGTON & BLYTH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

DATE: 12 JULY 2017

LOCAL POTHOLE FUND 2017-18

Report of : Paul Jones, Director of Local Services and Housing Delivery

Cabinet Member: Cllr Glen Sanderson, Environment and Local Services

Purpose of report

This report provides information on the introduction of a Northumberland Local Pothole Fund, as a pilot scheme, for 2017-18. The Local Pothole Fund is a £500k fund to be allocated towards the permanent repair of areas suffering from repeat pothole failure and / or localised drainage issues, with potential locations for repair to be identified by local Councillors.

Recommendations

- (a) Local Area Councils note this new initiative to fund improvements to the County's roads.**
- (b) Local Councillors consider the needs within their own Wards and put forward locations to be considered for repair.**

Key issues

1. The Cabinet Member for Environment and Local Services and Director of Local Services and Housing Delivery have recently approved the additional Local Transport Plan capital programme which is being funded from additional Government funding provided through the National Productivity Investment Fund 2017-18, which was announced in the Chancellor's Autumn statement 2016.
2. As part of this programme, additional funding of £500k has been allocated for a Northumberland Local Pothole Fund, as a pilot scheme for 2017-18. Each of the five Local Area Councils are being allocated £100k of this funding. Members of each Local Area Council are invited to submit suggestions on their priorities for permanent repair of discreet areas suffering from repeat pothole failure and / or localised drainage issues, at locations they believe are of high importance to the community and are considered to be prone to requiring frequent attention.

3. At this first stage Councillors can submit a maximum of 3 locations per Ward for consideration for repair. It is intended that two further rounds of submissions will be invited later in the year, depending on expenditure as repairs progress.
4. Given the funding available, this fund is aimed at relatively small discrete areas of road repair, of a few square metres in size. For reference and as a guide to the sort of repair areas that could be addressed, typical structural repair costs are as follows when delivered as part of a planned schedule of patching works;-
 - 2m x 2m x 100mm deep structural patch - £100
 - 4m x 3m x 100mm deep structural patch - £300although this will vary depending on location and traffic management required.
5. All submissions should be made on the request form (Appendix A) indicating the location and details of the defect. These should be returned to the email address shown on the form.
6. The first submissions should be made by 18th August 2017. This will allow the process of assessment and programming of work to be effectively and efficiently managed.
7. Once submissions are received, the identified locations will be inspected and assessed to identify the maintenance intervention needed for repair and the potential cost will be estimated.
8. It is expected that works will be carried out at the majority of locations identified. However, when considering the submissions the Area Managers will need to consider whether the scale and cost of the repair is appropriate for funding from this programme, whether the location is already to be addressed through other planned maintenance works, whether other works such as utilities may be expected at the location in the near future and whether the surrounding road condition may suggest that the location would be better referred for consideration for repair through other larger capital maintenance programmes.
9. Following the assessment, feedback will be provide to the Local Council Member on the action to be taken.
10. The Local Area Council's will periodically receive a report from the Area Highways Manager to provide an update on progress made and expenditure.

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Implications

Policy	This new initiative for a Local Pothole Fund is consistent with existing policies
Finance and value for money	The programme allocations is within the overall approved budget for the Local Transport Plan for 2017/18
Legal	None
Procurement	None
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None
Risk Assessment	Risk to the delivery of individual works within the programme will be considered during assessment and delivery. By managing the risk at this level risk to delivery of the programme as a whole will be controlled
Crime & Disorder	None
Customer Consideration	The delivery of the Local pothole Fund will improve the highways and transport network in Northumberland for the benefit of the travelling public.
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	All

Background papers:

None

Report sign off.

Finance Officer	AM
Monitoring Officer/Legal	n/a
Human Resources	n/a
Procurement	n/a
I.T.	n/a
Director	PJ
Portfolio Holder(s)	GS