

## Report to CABINET

# Pothole Funding 2023/24

### Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Chris Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods

### Officer Contact:

Emma Barton – Deputy Chief Executive, Place

### Report Author:

Gordon Anderson – Head of Highways & Engineering

**13<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

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## Reason for Decision

In addition to the block funding received for highway maintenance for 2023/24 (CRSTS), Oldham Council has received confirmation that it is also to receive £544,240 specifically for potholes to aid with highway maintenance across the borough.

This report seeks approval for the formal acceptance of the funding and the programmes recommended for delivery in 2023/24.

## Recommendations

Cabinet are asked to approve:

1. The allocation of Pothole funding to the figures shown below

Year	Machine Laid Patching	Footway Resurfacing	Carriageway Resurfacing
2023-24	£50,000	£100,000	£394,240

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2. The proposed programme of schemes, which would fully utilise the Pothole funding allocations available for 2023/24 as per the formal grant notification from Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA).
  3. That all tender award decisions are approved by the Authorised Officer (as per Departmental Scheme of Delegation) (up to £99,999) and where applicable (£100K+) by the Executive Member in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive, and Directors (as relevant). This is necessary to meet delivery timescales.
  4. That Cabinet delegate approval and authorisation to the Director of Legal Services or their nominated representative to sign and/or affix the Common Seal of the Council to all contracts/agreements/documents and associated or ancillary paperwork to give effect to the recommendations in this report.
  5. To seek approval for any underspend generated as the programme progresses to be used to deliver additional schemes in priority order (although lower priority schemes may be selected depending on available budget, value for money and type of treatment) until the budget is fully expended in year. This approach to utilising underspend means we do not need to gain further approvals to deliver additional schemes, ensuring they can be delivered as soon as practically possible.

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## Pothole Funding 2023/24

### 1 Background

- 1.1 On 11 September 2023, Oldham Council was informed via GMCA of its final Pothole funding allocation of £544,240 for 2023/24.

### 2 Current Position

#### 2.1 Pothole Funding

- 2.1.1 A core highway maintenance allocation of £35m (covering the first year of the £175m) will be made to local authorities based on an allocation process agreed with the Greater Manchester (GM) Delivery Group, the GM Highways Group, and the GM Treasurers.
- 2.1.2 In an effort to maintain the progress made as part of our recently completed Highway Investment Programme (HIP) Oldham Highways aim to prioritise funds going forward in the same manner. Ensuring scheme selection is carried out in the same manner will allow the Council to continue to prioritise the correct intervention on the highway at the correct time.
- 2.1.3 The Pothole Funding programme uses the most current condition data from the range of condition surveys carried out annually, and this data is then cross-referenced against claims and enquiry data. This approach has allowed the Highways department to not only target the worst roads across the borough, but to also continue to reduce highway claims and revenue repairs throughout Oldham.
- 2.1.4 Appendix 1 details the highway schemes to be delivered from the Pothole funding, formulated from the prioritised highway condition reports referenced in 2.1.3 above. This additional funding will enable the Councils Highways Department to undertake large-scale patching works, footway resurfacing and carriageway resurfacing works within 2023/24.

### 3 Options/Alternatives

#### 3.1 Option 1 - Members agree:

- The proposed programme of schemes which would fully utilise the Pothole Funding allocations available for 2023/24 as per the formal grant notification from GMCA

#### 3.2 Option 2 – Members do not agree:

- The proposed programme of schemes which would fully utilise the Pothole Funding allocations available for 2023/24 as per the formal grant notification from GMCA.

### 4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 Option 1 is recommended to progress delivery of the Pothole Funding Programme 2023/24 and deliver improvements and infrastructure across the borough's highway assets

### 5 Consultation

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- 5.1 Member engagement will commence once the funding acceptance is approved
  - 5.2 Residents will be informed of road works in their local areas ahead of works commencing to ensure awareness of the temporary inconvenience and length of time it will take for completion.

## 6 **Financial Implications**

- 6.1 Oldham Council has been awarded £0.544m by the GMCA from the Department for Transport's Additional Maintenance (pothole) Funding. This report seeks approval to accept the grant funding in 2023/24 and to undertake a proposed programme of resurfacing and patching schemes. The programme is not expected to exceed £544k and will be capital expenditure.
- 6.2 This programme will be funded from the '2023/24 Highway Maintenance' and 'Footway Improvement' schemes within the 2023/24 Transport Capital Programme, which will be financed by the Additional Maintenance Pothole Funding 2023 grant.  
(John Edisbury)

## 7 **Legal Services Comments**

- 7.1 None.  
(A. Evans)

## 8. **Co-operative Implications**

- 8.1 The proposals set out in this paper align with the Council's Co-operative agenda as the accepting the funding will strengthen future relations with GMCA and allow the Council to repair existing potholes in a number of allocations which will keep roads safe for pedestrians and motorists  
(Mahmuda Khanom)

## 9 **Human Resources Comments**

- 9.1 None.  
(Kristie Radcliffe)

## 10 **Risk Assessments**

- 10.1 The proposals within the report detail the requirement for additional funding to maintain the condition of Oldham's carriageway network in order to limit any financial liabilities for breaches of Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980. Any spend agreed will need to be balanced against the Council's current financial position and the requirements already set out in the capital programme which was approved in March 2023. For contracts awarded for any programme of works agreed, the relevant legal, procurement and insurance processes will need to be followed.  
(Joanne James: Risk & Insurance)

## 11 **IT Implications**

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11.1 None.

12 **Property Implications**

12.1 None.

13 **Procurement Implications**

13.1 The Council's Contract Procedure Rules will be adhered to in procuring all the works requirements. Fully compliant Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015) procedures will be used subject to contract values. Several compliant procurement options are available to the Council as stipulated within PCR 2015, including but not limited to, open tender and call-offs under existing compliant infrastructure framework agreements. The Council's Highways Team has full access to several existing compliant Framework Agreements, which include but not limited to, Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) Framework, STaR Framework, NW Contractor Framework, CHSWF Agreements and several others from Greater Manchester local authorities. The Framework Agreements cover a wide number of works that will be required providing much procurement flexibility in striving to deliver best value to the Council. In addition, many of these frameworks have local and regional operators aiding SMEs to participate in an open, fair, and transparent procurement environment. This procurement strategy to be adopted for the works will provide resilience and flexibility ensuring equal treatment; the works will be commissioned in consultation with the Council's Commercial Procurement Unit.

(Irfan Oomer – Senior Category Manager – Highways and Property)

14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

14.1 None.

15 **Community cohesion disorder implications in accordance with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

15.1 None.

16 **Oldham Impact Assessment Completed (Including impact on Children and Young People)**

16.1 Yes – attached as appendix 2.

17 **Key Decision**

17.1 Yes.

18 **Key Decision Reference.**

18.1 NEI-14-23.

19 **Background Papers**

19.1 None.

20 **Appendices**

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20.1 Appendix 1 - Pot Hole Funding Programme 2023/24

20.2 Appendix 2 - EIA

## APPENDIX 1

REF	Scheme Name	Extents	Ward	2023/24 Allocation
<b>Carriageway Resurfacing</b>				
				<b>£394,240</b>
1	The Square	Full Length	Saddleworth North	£56,110
2	Crofton Street	Wyndale Rd to Hollins Rd	Medlock Vale	£75,052
3	Knowsley Green	Full Length	Saddleworth North	£16,365
4	Broomhurst Avenue	Full Length	Wernerth	£36,542
5	Stephenson Street / Ash Square	Full Length	Waterhead	£21,080
6	Brooks Drive	Marlborough Dr to Props Hall Dr	Failsworth West	£114,853
7	Maple Close	Full Length	Crompton	£44,184
8	Bronte Close	Full Length	St James	£30,054
<b>Footway Resurfacing</b>				
				<b>£100,000</b>
Boroughwide Footway Resurfacing		Schemes to be prioritised from latest condition data		
<b>Machine Laid Patching</b>				
				<b>£50,000</b>
Boroughwide Machine Laid Patching		Schemes to be priorities from latest condition data		