

Area West Committee – 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013

## 9. County Highway Authority Report

*Lead Officer:* Mike Fear, Assistant Highway Service Manager, South Somerset Highways

*Contact Details:* countyroads-southsom@somerset.gov.uk or 0845 345 9155

### Purpose of the Report

Being the final report for this financial year, I aim to give a brief report of the highway works carried out this year in Area West and our proposed works programme for 2013/2014.

### Recommendation

That members note the report.

### Report

#### Surface Dressing

Last years surface dressing (2012) was undertaken later in the season than we would have liked due to the contractor being held up due to a number of factors. Weather is a key factor in this process being successful, but as you all know we had a record year for rainfall and lower temperatures. This has resulted in a few failures where the surface dressing has striped off. These sites have been identified and will receive remedial treatment during the summer months.

This year a further program of 95 sites across South Somerset will be surface dressed with a likely start date of late April / early May. A program of patching is currently ongoing to prepare these sites for surfacing.

#### Additional Local Highways Maintenance Funds

In the Chancellors Autumn Statement of the 5<sup>th</sup> December he announced that an additional £1.5 billion of Government investment to improve the highway network and reduce congestion. For Somerset County Council this means that there will be a Capital Grant of £5.033m split over two years as follows. £3.282m in 2013/14 and £1.751m in 2014/15.

In order to achieve the aims and conditions of the grant to improve the highway network and reduce congestion it is proposed that SCC tackle two of the current issues that are not fully addressed within the current budgets. These areas are:-

**1 Deterioration of the highway carriageway surface**

**2 Damage caused to the highway by flooding events**

In South Somerset this equates to £600k for each area of concern. We are currently looking at 100+ sites for consideration. Each site will be given an estimated cost to give an indication of how many of these sites can be undertaken in 2013/14. I can report the details of successful schemes later in the year.

## Potholes

Repair of potholes on the highway is one of our main activities throughout the year. The table below gives an indication of the potholes repaired for the whole of Somerset. You can see that the figures are fairly stable until January 2013 when the level of defects reported increased in excess of 50%.

To enable this increase in numbers to be repaired all our depot gangs have now been deployed on this activity. This means that other depot works proposed like drainage and signing will be delayed until at least April.

Countywide this year we have repaired 22,713 potholes up to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

On a 12 month rolling period we have repaired 24,263.

Month	Reported	Repaired
April 2012	1740	1724
May 2012	2167	1860
June 2012	1219	1458
July 2012	2302	2048
August 2012	1697	1593
September 2012	1421	1655
October 2012	1307	1402
November 2012	1348	1030
December 2012	1915	1682
January 2013	2911	1990
February 2013	3880	3701
March 2013 (up to 8th)	806	1269

## Schemes Proposed for 2013/14

This year's structural maintenance budget has been reduced by 30% and as a result the list is a little shorter than previous years. Schemes proposed in Area West are listed below.

Combe St Nicholas	Combe Hill	Resurfacing
Chard	Victoria Avenue	Resurfacing
Chard	Coronation Street/Summerfield's	Footways
Chard	St Mary's Close	Footways
Tatworth and Forton	Welling Close	Footways
Chard	Touchstone Lane	Footways
Broadway	Broadway Street	Drainage
Combe St Nicholas	Street Ash	Drainage
Combe St Nicholas	Cuttifords Door	Drainage
Whitestaunton	Howley Road	Drainage
Haselbury Plucknett	Claycastle	Drainage

**Background Papers:** None.