

Council Meeting

29 November 2023

Motion submitted by Councillor Bellenger under Council Procedure Rule 14

Road Repairs

Council notes that:

- a) The poor state of many roads in Calderdale is of significant concern to road users resulting in complaints to the Council and to Councillors.
- b) Poor road surface conditions can lead to physical damage to vehicles and reputational damage to the Council.
- c) The Local Government Association (LGA) has noted that, because of inflation and materials shortages, the cost of repairing a pothole has increased by 22 per cent.
- d) The LGA has reported that councils in the UK face a £14billion road repair backlog.

Council believes that the government's 'pothole fund' is a totally inadequate response to this situation. It comes nowhere near to replacing the funding that has been removed from council highways budgets and is aimed more at generating publicity than seriously tackling a growing problem.

Council therefore calls on Cabinet to:

- a) Accept that the money returned to this Council from the West Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority was intended to be spent on transport projects and therefore improving Calderdale's roads would be a legitimate call on the as yet unallocated sum of approximately £1.5million.
- b) Explore and implement innovative road repair techniques and purchase, where necessary, equipment that can lead to more, better and cheaper road repairs.
- c) Adopt a robust stance when dealing with utility companies and their contractors to ensure that, following work undertaken on roads and footpaths, reinstatements are completed to the highest standard and are of lasting quality.