

	<b>Cabinet</b> 17 October 2022
	<b>Report from the Corporate Director,  Resident Services</b>
<b>Highways Capital Maintenance Programme 2022-23</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Key
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	Three Appendix 1: Highways Maintenance Programme Completed in 2021/22 Appendix 2: Highways Maintenance Programme for 2022/23 Appendix 3: Ward Abbreviations
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
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## 1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To approve the Highways Maintenance Scheme Programme for 2022-23.

## 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves the proposed Highways Maintenance Scheme Programme 2022-23 as detailed in Appendix B.

## **Detail**

### **3.1 Summary**

- 3.1.1 In 2021/22, £3.5m of Brent Capital and £1.67m of the Recovery fund was allocated to improving the condition of Brent's footways, roads and highway structures, which resulted in the resurfacing of around 4.0 miles of road and the reconstruction of about 7 miles of footway. This equates to about 1.3% of the road network and 1.3% of the footway network (see Appendix A for details).
- 3.1.2 In addition, up to the end of 2021/22, £18.5m of Brent Capital has been spent improving the condition of Brent's footways as part of the £20m footway improvement programme. At the time of writing (August 2022), the programme is complete, apart from the Kilburn High Road Project for which £1m of the £20m has been set aside. It is estimated that once that is complete, around 45 miles of footway will have been resurfaced, which equates to about 8.5% of the footway network.
- 3.1.3 In previous years, in addition to £3.5m of Brent capital, TfL would add funding for Principal Road (A-road) improvements. However, in November 2017 TfL published details of their new five-year Business Plan and between 2018/19 and 2019/20 investment in proactive planned renewals on both the Borough Principal Road Network (BPRN) and TfL Road Network (TLRN) was "paused", with only very limited funding available across London; Brent received no funding in 2018/19 and 2019/20. In 2020/21, Brent received £239,000 of TfL funding to resurface Willesden Lane (Sidmouth Road to Coverdale Road). No funding from TfL was received for 2021/22, and none has been allocated to Brent for 2022/23 either.
- 3.1.4 The council has decided to invest a further £15m over the next four years into planned maintenance. It is intended to deliver £2m of that in this year 2022/23, and the remaining £13m over the following three years. Because of the relatively poor condition of the Principal Road network, it is intended that £4m of the £15m be spent on Principal Road maintenance (i.e. £1m a year over the next four years), with the remainder being spent on footway reconstruction. The complete footway programme for the remaining three years (2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26) will be presented to the Cabinet Member for Environment, for Delegated Approval, in March 2023. All Ward Councillors will be invited to nominate five roads and five footways, considered the priorities for their respective ward, which will be fed into our prioritisation process.
- 3.1.5 This report sets out recommendations for how Brent's base £3.5m capital budget, plus the £2m extra, should be allocated during 2022/23 through prioritised programmes of:
- Major road resurfacing;
  - Preventative maintenance for roads including Injection patching

- Major Footway reconstruction
- Improvements to Highway Structures & drainage
- Improvements to the public realm, and
- Renewal of Road Markings

3.1.6 The programmes are drawn up using Brent's Highway Asset Management Planning (HAMP) approach, which provides a systematic long-term methodology for maintaining the borough's highways. The HAMP approach, started in 2014/15, delivers better value for money through adoption of a forward thinking maintenance plan. Preventative maintenance is being proposed with an injection-patching programme for carriageways.

3.1.7 We have taken advantage of new technology to improve our asset condition data collection. For carriageways, a video survey of the whole borough can be completed in a week. The rapidity of this survey method means that we can have comprehensive and up-to-date road defect data and so can target repairs much more effectively, as well as automatically picking up other useful inventory and condition information.

3.1.8 The Highways & Infrastructure service are keen to play an ever-increasing role in reducing carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions from within our remit.

### **3.2 *Last Year's Highways Maintenance Investment 2021/22***

3.2.1 In 2021/22 Brent's annual highways maintenance investment programme consisted of £3.5m base Brent capital funding, plus £1.67m from the Recovery fund (works that overlapped into 2022/23). This was used to maintain Brent's carriageways, footways and highway structures. Appendix A provides details of the works delivered, which resulted in (amongst other things) around 4.0 miles of roads being resurfaced and 7 miles of footways being reconstructed.

3.2.2 Additionally by the end of 2021/22, a cumulative total of £18.5m of the £20m footway improvement programme had been spent; this programme started in November 2019.

### **3.3 *Managing Highways Assets***

#### ***Brent's Highway Assets***

3.3.1 Highway infrastructure is the most visible, well used and valuable physical asset owned by the Council. The latest value of Brent's asset is estimated at around £4.5bn and includes:

- 505 km (315 miles) of roads;
- 847 km (529 miles) of pavements;
- 90 bridges and structures;
- 20700 road gullies;
- 10,000 street trees; and
- 22,848 streetlights and other illuminated street furniture.

### ***Asset Condition Surveys***

- 3.3.2 We have taken advantage of new technology to improve our asset condition data collection. Now, for carriageways, a video survey of the whole borough can be completed in a week, much quicker than a traditional manual survey. The survey is undertaken from an ordinary car using a standard mobile phone. The innovative part is that Artificial Intelligence (AI) software then scans the images, quickly and reliably identifying defects and categorising them into types.
- 3.3.3 Being quick, this survey method means we can progress repairs at pace; from the start of borough-wide video survey, through data analysis, to a programme of pothole repair works commencing on the ground can be as little as three weeks. The rapidity of this survey method means that we have comprehensive and up-to-date road defect data and so can target repairs (e.g. injection patching) much more effectively.
- 3.3.4 The video survey has other benefits; officers can interrogate the images to see exactly why one section is showing up “red” condition; inventories of traffic signs (temporary and permanent) are collected automatically; and the system can (for instance) identify faded road markings, allowing us to produce a comprehensive intelligence–lead prioritised refresh programme much more efficiently.
- 3.3.5 The video surveys are currently vehicle mounted, so traditional Detailed Visual Inspections are still required for footways. We survey 50% of the footway network per year as we believe this is a good balance between cost and data quality; the overall condition of a footway does not tend to deteriorate rapidly in the same way a road can do, when it’s subject to a bad winter and heavy traffic. Here, though we are also making improvements to data; this year we have started to collect grass verge inventory and condition data, so (although it is a snapshot) we can see just how many of our grass verges are damaged through vehicle overrun, inconsiderate builders and illegal crossovers.
- 3.3.6 It is proposed to utilise up to £100,000 of Brent capital funding to undertake asset condition surveys and analysis during 2022/23. These surveys assist us in managing the asset by providing data on the long-term deterioration of the network and help us draw up prioritised works programmes.

### ***Structural Asset Condition***

- 3.3.7 The table below sets out the condition of Brent’s roads by indicating the percentage of each length of road type where maintenance should be considered.

<b>% of roads where maintenance should be considered</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>A class roads</b>	<b>B and C class roads</b>	<b>Unclassified roads</b>
2008/2009	8%	9%	23%
2009/2010	11%	9%	23%
2010/2011	9%	7%	27%
2011/2012	9%	6%	26%
2012/2013	8%	9%	20%
2013/2014	13%	11%	21%
2014/2015	16%	16%	21%
2015/2016	6%	10%	21%
2016/2017	6%	5%	24%
2017/2018	22%	7%	21%
2018/2019	6%	7%	18%
2019/2020	14%	10%	14%
2020/2021	17%	14%	9%
2021/2022	22%	16%	8%

3.3.8 The Classified road network has deteriorated in condition, with A roads worsening from 17 to 22% in need of maintenance and B&C roads likewise going from 14 to 16%. The A road performance reflects the lack of LIP funding over recent years. Unclassified roads make up 80% of all borough roads and from the latest surveys, and their condition has again seen an improvement (marginal this time), to only 8% of Brent's unclassified roads now in need of substantial maintenance. This reflects the increased budget for road resurfacing in 2019/20 and 2020/21 as the footway allocation within the £3.5m normally used for footways was "repurposed" for extra carriageway maintenance in those years. The extensive injection patching programmes 2019-2022 no doubt helped the carriageway condition

3.3.9 The overall footway condition has substantially improved from 47% in 2018/19 to 38% in 2021/22; this reflects the substantial impact made by the £20m footway improvement programme. Though the condition has dipped from 33% in 20/21 (which may be in part due to inherent margins of error in visual surveys), the trend is still one of improvement.

3.3.10 As time goes on roads and pavements that are currently in good condition will deteriorate, just like any physical asset such as a house or a vehicle. To keep on top of the deterioration of our asset the council must invest continually in maintenance.

### ***Highways Asset Management & Scheme Prioritisation***

3.3.11 To improve the way the council maintains its highways, the council adopted the Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP) in February 2014. The HAMP sets out a strategy based on the need to repair our assets on a regular basis, before they fail, to extend their lifespans and reduce repair costs long-term, and provide the best value for money for the Council.

3.3.12 The strategy initially involves introducing a programme of major resurfacing works along with preventative maintenance, which takes the form of thin

surface treatments (to seal roads against water ingress) and injection patching (to slow down the rate of deterioration)

3.3.13 During 2021/22, the network has been assessed to determine the current condition of both roads and pavements. A range of factors is then taken into account to define priorities for maintenance.

3.3.14 The factors taken into account come under two broad headings, “Treatment Benefit” for network condition and “Prioritisation benefit” for all the other factors. Scores are given according to each of the factors and the total score gives the relative priority for maintenance of one road against another.

#### **Treatment Benefit - from Network Condition**

In order to create analytical models to understand maintenance needs, firstly we define how the asset will deteriorate if no remedial action is taken. This can be done in a number of ways, one of which is using historical condition data. The next thing is to define the remedial treatments to counter that deterioration. Specific treatments could be 20mm resurfacing, 40mm resurfacing or reconstruction for a carriageway.

Defined data is used to identify the suitable remedial treatments to be applied to each scheme and are obtained from the combination of condition triggers required for each treatment.

The system then analyses the maintenance rules over subsection lengths (e.g. 10m, 20m) of carriageway or footway. For each subsection, from the condition surveys it identifies the treatment required. It then merges treatment subsections together into “schemes”. A “Benefit Cost Ratio” (BCR) is calculated for each subsection, which is the expected improvement in condition (i.e. the Benefit) versus the cost of treatment. This is then averaged over the total length of road surface identified as needing maintenance, to get the “Average Treatment Benefit”

#### **Prioritisation Benefit**

Scores for each of the following Prioritisation factors are calculated, weighted according to both the relative importance of each factor, and the total length of required maintenance (“treatment length”) identified within a road, to get the Prioritisation Benefit score.

- ***Claims Priority***

Roads with a recent history of public accident claims for loss or damage on the highway (on the footway or carriageway as appropriate) are allocated a score in this category. The number of accident claims in a road is divided by its length, so that roads of different lengths can be compared on an equal basis.

- ***Defects Priority***

Roads with a recent history of reactive maintenance defects identified (on the footway or carriageway as appropriate) are allocated a score in this category. Reactive maintenance defects could be potholes or pavement trips, and are identified through either reactive safety inspections in response to customer

reports or scheduled safety inspections. The number of defects in a road is divided by its length, so that roads of different lengths can be compared on an equal basis.

- ***Nominations Priority***

Roads, which have been named in that year's round of Councillor Nominations, are allocated a score in this category

- ***Hierarchy Priority***

Brent footway and carriageway hierarchies have been determined according to the principles in the industry Code of Practice "Well Managed Highway Infrastructure" by Metis Consultants Ltd. A network hierarchy based on asset function is the foundation of a risk-based maintenance strategy. The hierarchy takes into account current and expected use, resilience, and local economic and social factors such as industry, schools, hospitals and similar, as well as the desirability of continuity and of a consistent approach for walking and cycling.

3.3.15 Apart from Classified roads, which by their nature can be quite long, the programmes are often drawn up on a whole road basis. This means a section of road in relatively good condition may be resurfaced if it is on a street where the rest of the road needs maintenance and it would be illogical, or impractical, not to resurface the whole street.

3.3.16 Our Asset Management software uses the Council's condition survey data to produce annual road and footway maintenance programmes, including suggested treatments, for defined budgets to give optimum condition, taking into account deterioration of asset. Officers use this function of the AM tool to draw up programmes for:

- Major resurfacing programme for B, C and unclassified roads;
- Preventative maintenance for unclassified roads (both thin surfacing and injection patching programmes)
- The footway resurfacing programme.
- Road-marking refresh programme

3.3.17 Priorities for Principal Road resurfacing programmes have been determined solely by structural condition as that is the basis that TfL accept bids for funding.

### ***Preventative Treatments and Innovation***

3.3.18 Thin surface treatments used in preventative maintenance is appropriate where the deterioration in the surface (as measured by highway condition survey data) has not yet resulted in problems with the underlying structure of the road. Similarly, major resurfacing is required when deterioration has progressed further and so more extensive (and more expensive) repairs are necessary.

### 3.4 Highways Investment during 2022/23

#### 3.4.1 Carriageway Works

- a) The 2022/23 carriageway maintenance programme is shown in Appendix B. Roads have been prioritised from the results of an independent network condition survey, also considering roads against the wide range of factors noted above, and with an engineer's assessment from a site visit. Appendix C gives the key to the Ward name abbreviations used in Appendix B
- b) In summary the proposed carriageway works programme includes:

<b>Carriageway works programme 2022/23</b>	<b>£000</b>
Major resurfacing of B, C & unclassified roads; Preventative maintenance unclassified roads	1,535
Carriageway Short Sections	150
Injection patching	250
Renewal of Road Markings	50
£15 m - Major resurfacing of Principal ("A") roads	990
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,975</b>

- c) ***Principal Road Network Funding***  
In previous years, in addition to £3.5m of Brent capital, TfL would add funding for Principal Road (A-road) improvements. However, in November 2017 TfL published details of their new five-year Business Plan and between 2018/19 and 2019/20 investment in proactive planned renewals on both the Borough Principal Road Network (BPRN) and TfL Road Network (TLRN) was "paused", with only very limited funding available across London; Brent received no funding in 2018/19 and 2019/20. In 2020/21, Brent received £239,000 of TfL funding to resurface Willesden Lane (Sidmouth Road to Coverdale Road). No funding from TfL was received for 2021/22, and none has been allocated to Brent for 2022/23 either.

- d) ***Injection patching***  
In summer 2018, a successful pilot programme of injection patch repairs was carried out on unclassified roads (side roads). With this process, a large number of potholes can be treated quickly. A pothole repair can be done in about two minutes – the normal time it usually takes a conventional repair gang to do the job would be 10-15 minutes. The programme went very well, with a large number of defects being fixed across the borough in a short space of time, with minimal disruption and at about 64% of the cost (£35) of a conventional planned repair (£55\*) and 40% of the cost of a conventional reactive repair (£87\*) [\*2022 Alarm Survey , London figures]
- e) Though it should be pointed out that the process does not claim to provide repairs as long-lasting as traditional patch repairs, many repairs have indeed



turned out to be durable, and there is no doubt that injection patching is a useful addition to our palette of repair types.

- f) Given this success, in 2019/20, a two-year contract was and a programme of repairs was carried out with a £500,000 annual budget to deliver a borough wide programme of injection patching pothole repairs.
- g) The previous two-year injection-patching contract has now expired, and a new two-year contract was procured in summer 2021. As last winter 21/22 was again relatively mild, the amount of rapid road surface deterioration we have experienced this spring has been reduced. This consideration leads officers to propose a budget for this year to £250,000.

#### ***Carriageway Short Sections***

- h) Short lengths of carriageway that are in poor condition can cost a significant amount in reactive maintenance repairs, as well as being a cause of accident claims. It is therefore proposed to invest £150k of this year's overall budget to resurface short sections of carriageway. The programme will be determined "in-year" according to priorities at the time.

### **3.4.2 Footway Repairs**

- a) The overall footway condition has substantially improved from 47% in 2018/19 to 38% in 2021/22; this reflects the substantial impact made by the £20m footway improvement programme. Though the condition has dipped from 33 % in 20/21 (which may be in part due to inherent margins of error in visual surveys), the trend is still one of improvement.
- b) To carry on the practice established during the £20m footway improvement programme, for roads where the existing footway (including vehicle crossings) is all bituminous surfacing, that for the improvement works concrete blocks will be used on vehicle crossings and at street corners. This will provide consistency across all highway footway schemes in the borough.
- c) Short lengths of footway that are in poor condition can cost a significant amount in reactive maintenance repairs, as well as being a cause of accident claims. It is therefore proposed to invest £150k of this year's overall budget to resurface short sections of footway. The programme will be determined "in-year" according to priorities at the time. Cabinet Members will be able to have an input but the footways suggested would need to correspond with a "red" on the condition data.
- d) The council has decided to invest a further £15m over the next four years into planned highway maintenance. It is intended to deliver £2m of that in this year 2022/23 (Approximately £1m to footway improvements and £1m to A road resurfacing), and the £13m remainder over the following three years. The entire programme for the £13m remainder will be presented for Delegated Approval to the Cabinet Member for Environment in March 2023.

### **3.4.3 Investing in Public Realm**

This year it is proposed that the Public Realm programme will continue with an allocation of £0.125m. The works will be to strengthen and protect footways and soft verges, particularly at junctions, to mitigate the effects of vehicle overrun.

#### **3.4.4 Reducing the risk of flooding in Brent**

##### ***Implementation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) within our Developments***

- a) Since the introduction of the Flood & Water Management Act 2010, the Highways & Infrastructure service assesses every major development within the borough to ensure that each is in accordance with the London plan for sustainable drainage. So, each development will have at least a 50 % reduction in surface water discharge from the current level, which will incrementally decrease the volume of flow entering the sewer system during any rainfall event which will start to reduce significantly highway flooding.
- b) To accompany the reduction in discharge, we ensure that each development incorporates SuDS infrastructure such as green roofs, blue roofs and permeable paving that provides amenity for our residents, reduces carbon outputs, and enhances biodiversity.

##### ***Flood risk alleviation schemes***

We are currently looking at hydraulic modelling to assess the prime areas of flooding within the borough and are looking at new opportunities to implement new schemes in order to alleviate flooding, provide amenity, and increase our biodiversity and lowering our carbon outputs

##### ***Watercourse Maintenance***

We manage the non-statutory main rivers within the borough and undertake inspections and maintenance to ensure that the watercourses are able to attenuate rainfall flows sufficiently and prevent “fluvial flooding” This occurs when the water level in a river, lake or stream rises and overflows onto the surrounding banks neighbouring land. By contrast, a pluvial flood occurs when an extreme rainfall event creates a flood independent of an overflowing water body

##### ***Flood Risk Management strategy***

Following extensive flooding in 2007, the Government gave powers and responsibilities to local authorities enabling them to manage flood risk more effectively. The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 and the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, have increased the statutory responsibilities of unitary authorities such Brent Council, which has a new role as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for the borough.

The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 introduced duties onto Local Lead Flood Authorities (LLFAs) to prepare preliminary assessment reports, to identify Flood Risk Areas and to prepare a Flood risk Strategy. The Flood and Water

Management Act 2010 aims to provide better, more comprehensive management of flood risk for people, homes and businesses

This strategy builds on the work already carried out and details what actions the Council and other key stakeholders are taking to manage flood risk in Brent. The Strategy has five objectives:

- Improving the understanding of flooding risks In Brent
- Reducing the risk of flooding for people and businesses in Brent.
- Providing clear information on the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in flood risk management in Brent
- Ensuring that emergency plans and responses to flood incidents in Brent are effective.
- To take a sustainable and holistic approach to flood management, seeking to deliver wider environmental and social benefits

This strategy is now due for review, and it is intended to carry out this review in 2022/23 as part of this year's work programme.

### **Gully Cleansing**

- a) We prioritise gully cleansing to prevent local flooding, with both scheduled and reactive gully cleansing activities taking place. There are approximately 20718 road gullies in the borough, which are cleaned as part of a cyclic maintenance. The cleaning cycle includes:
- High-priority (regularly blocking) gullies cleaned every six months;
  - 1,300 medium-priority gullies cleaned each year; and
  - 14,688 gullies cleaned every twelve months as part of a rolling programme.
  - 18,874 gullies cleaned every eighteen months as part of a rolling programme
- b) The cleansing frequencies depend on the likelihood of gullies filling up with silt. Monitoring of the contractor FM Conway's performance continues and the contractor has remained on programme. Hard to reach gullies (i.e. where there are parked cars over them, or on busy corners) are subject to repeat attendance until cleaned; if necessary other measures (e.g. suspending parking bays) will be considered where necessary.
- c) Gullies are also cleaned on a reactive basis in response to reports from members of the public or Councillors of blocked gullies.
- d) We implement small scale schemes to address localised flooding problems such as broken gullies or gully pipes, or localised gully capacity problems. Larger scale capacity problems are within the remit of Thames Water who are responsible for the main drainage system. Whilst maintenance helps, rainfall flows that are greater than the capacity of the network will still result in localised flooding. This flooding will normally dissipate away down the drains given time.

### **3.4.5 Improving Brent's bridges and structures**

- a) The Council are responsible for 90 highway structures, including 60 bridges, 13 retaining walls and 17 culverts. The majority of bridges are small structures spanning brooks. Funding for bridge maintenance is normally allocated by Transport for London on a regional priority basis.
- b) The proposed schemes include desk studies, special inspections, feasibility/ options studies, assessments in order to get an informed decision for subsequent design stages and implementation of construction work. These activities are being undertaken in accordance to current design standards/ guidance documents and CDM Regulations, taking into account the public and site personnel safety and the environment. Applications via BridgeStation for LoBEG funding are also being submitted for schemes that are eligible, though we have not been allocated any LoBEG funding in 2022/23.
- c) The Council's £76k revenue budget will be used for the 2022/23 Inspection programme and providing highway structures consultancy support.
- d) In 2022/23, the £0.45m Brent capital will be used for various highway structures and drainage tasks to be decided according to in-year priorities.

#### **3.4.6 Renewal of Road markings**

- a) Up until 2015/16 no funding was allocated for the systematic renewal of road markings. However, following on from the practice started in 2015/16 officers recommend the continuation of a £50,000 annual renewal programme. This programme will be drawn up using the video condition survey and as prioritised by the asset management system.
- b) Renewal of those road markings, which are required for enforcement, are managed by the Parking & Lighting Service.

### **3.5 Climate Change**

#### ***The Challenge is Now***

- 3.5.1 The Highways & Infrastructure service are keen to play an ever-increasing role in reducing carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions from within our remit. The industry code of Practice "Well Managed Highway Infrastructure" recommends:

*"The effects of extreme weather events on highway infrastructure assets should be risk assessed and ways to mitigate the impacts of the highest risks identified."*

[Recommendation 21]

*"The impact of highway infrastructure maintenance activities in terms of whole life carbon costs should be taken into account when determining appropriate interventions, material and treatments."* [Recommendation 32]

- 3.5.2 It is important that decision making in highways asset management be taken with these recommendations in mind. At the same time, London Boroughs

should work to ensure that the Mayoral policy of London being carbon neutral by 2030 is achieved.

3.5.3 Thereby reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> in highway interventions needs to be assessed, understood and mitigated through:

- a) Reduction of carbon in the production of materials
- b) Reduction of carbon in transportation of materials to site
- c) Reduction of carbon in installation
- d) Reduction of waste generated from site
- e) Extension of life of the assets ensuring resilient materials are used that withstand climate change and deliver a service to society in the longer term.

#### ***Common Aims with Asset Management***

3.5.4 The challenge of reducing carbon footprint for the maintenance of the highways asset dovetails well with the aim of highways asset management; which is to have a structured approach to managing assets effectively and minimise the whole life cost of the asset whilst delivering the required levels of service.

Given that our aim is to minimise ongoing maintenance; all maintenance has its carbon footprint and so by minimising maintenance - especially by increasing planned maintenance (which is by its nature more cost effective) and thereby decreasing the need for reactive maintenance – we also decrease carbon emissions.

#### ***What we are doing already***

3.5.5 On a regular basis councils are reporting carbon efficiencies in schemes and contracts and works on various industry magazines. Currently our approach can be encapsulated by the watchwords ***Reduce, Reuse and Recycle:***

***Reduce*** – the most desirable of the three: we reduce the ongoing maintenance through asset management, and use resilient materials in our footways and carriageways to be fit for the challenges of today. This approach needs to cover all schemes in the public realm, such as town centre refurbishments, to make sure they do not become maintenance liabilities. Warm-mix asphalt has many benefits over standard bitumen including reduced emissions (up to 30% & 50% at the point of mixing & laying respectively), reduced overall costs, improved Health & Safety and enhanced technical performance. Our preventative maintenance programmes reduce the need for more intrusive and costly maintenance

***Reuse*** – the next desirable is reusing materials where possible. For example, during footway improvement works wherever possible we reuse the existing granite kerbs, instead of shipping in completely new kerbs from places like Portugal or China

***Recycle*** – lastly, if reducing or reusing is not possible, at least recycle. It is standard practice now amongst contractors to recycle as many material arisings from highway works as possible, and turn it into granular fill, which can be used

in the foundations of footway and carriageway construction. Often recycle rates are well over 90%.

## 4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The table below summarises the actual and proposed allocation of Brent capital funding for highways maintenance during the years 2020/21 - 2022/23:

Schemes	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
	(£ 000)	(£ 000)	(£ 000)
<b>BRENT BASE CAPITAL ALLOCATION</b>			
Major resurfacing of B, C & unclassified roads; Preventative maintenance unclassified roads	2,120	1,058	1,535
Carriageway Short Sections	150	150	150
Injection patching	500	250	250
Injection Patching Traffic Management	25	Included above	Included above
Highway Structures (*& Drainage)	500	450	450*
Improvements to the public realm	125	105	125
Condition Surveys & Analysis	30	50	100
Renewal of Road Markings	50	50	50
Major Footway Works	0	1,387	690
Footway Short Sections			150
<b>Sub-total Base Brent Capital</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>3,500</b>
£20 m Major Footway Resurfacing, Refurbishment of Local Shopping Parades, Major Town Centre Refurbishments	9,984	3,934	
Recovery Funding		1,821	
£15 m - Major Footway Resurfacing			1,010
£15 m - Major resurfacing of Principal ("A") roads			990
<b>Sub-total Major Footway Investment</b>	<b>9,984</b>	<b>5,755</b>	<b>2,000</b>
TfL Funding for Principal Roads	239	0	0
<b>TOTAL HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME</b>	<b>13,723</b>	<b>9,255</b>	<b>5,500</b>

4.2 The £3.5m annual Brent Capital is used for the maintenance of carriageways, footways and highway structures, excepting 19/20 and 20/21 when the £20m footway improvement programme was in full flow and the £3.5m was allocated to carriageways and structures only. Priorities are identified over time in preparation of the future programme of works.

4.3 It is proposed to utilise up to £100k of the £3.5m Brent Base Capital to undertake condition surveys and analysis during 2022/23. These surveys will assist preparation of a long-term asset management programme.

4.4 The annual £3.5m is funded through a revenue contribution to capital and the investment of £15m will be funded through council reserves.

## **5.0 Legal Implications**

5.1 Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 places a duty on the council as highways authority to maintain the public highway. The Highways Maintenance Scheme Programme must make sufficient provision for the Council to comply with this duty. Breach of this duty can render the council liable to pay compensation if anyone is injured as a result of failure to maintain the highway. There is also a general power under section 62 of the Highways Act 1980 to improve highways.

## **6.0 Equality Implications**

6.1 The proposals in this report have been subject to screening there are considered to be no equalities implications that require full assessment. The works proposed under the highways main programme do not have different outcomes for people in terms of race, gender, age, sexuality or belief.

6.2 In addition, the design criteria used in all highway work does take note of the special requirements of various disabilities. These will take the form of levels and grades associated with wheelchair users, for example road crossing points, and for partially sighted / blind persons at crossing facilities. The highway standards employed are nationally recognised by such bodies as the Department for Transport. This programme of works continues the upgrade of disabled crossing facilities at junctions, which were not constructed to modern day standards. All new junctions are designed to be compliant at the time of construction.

6.3 Strengthened areas of footway are far less susceptible to damage and will therefore aid the movement of pedestrians that may find it difficult to walk on uneven pavements.

6.4 Officers will make sure accessibility ramps are provided to aid wheelchair users and those with prams. Officer will make sure high visibility barriers and tapping rails are provided to allow those with visual impairments to negotiate the works as they are in progress.

6.5 Officers will make sure of the visibility of the required signage, also where temporary work is being carried out.

6.6 Officers will monitor of the quality of the work to ensure that the finished surface is to specification and does not form a mobility hindrance; and that signage and road markings are correctly provided as aid to movement.

## **7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

7.1 Officers will continue to take account of councillor nominations for road maintenance and this is factored into the priorities for the annual maintenance plans (see section 3.3).

## **8.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)**

8.1 None.

## **9.0 Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012**

9.1 The Council is under duty pursuant to the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 (“the Social Value Act”) to consider how services being procured might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of its area; how, in conducting procurements necessary to deliver the programme, the Council might act with a view to securing that improvement; and whether the Council should undertake consultation. This duty does not strictly apply to the proposed contracts required to deliver the programme, as they are not services contracts but rather works contracts. Nevertheless, Officers will have had regard to considerations contained in the Social Value Act in relation to any procurements to deliver the programme.

**Report sign off:**

**Peter Gadsdon**

Corporate Director, Resident  
Services