

HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME 2025/26

Cabinet Member & Portfolio	Councillor Steve Tuckwell Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing & Growth
Responsible Officer	Karrie Whelan, Corporate Director Place
Report Author & Directorate	Gurmeet Matharu, Highways Asset Engineer Place
Papers with report	Appendix A - Capital release requests for approval

HEADLINES

Summary	<p>This report seeks Cabinet approval to initiate the Highways Improvement Programme for 25/26, noting the significant investment proposed together with expected Government funding and seeks release of the necessary capital funds and delegated authority to deliver the programme on time. Initial schemes are set out in the report, and all future schemes, as they are developed, will be reported for transparency as the programme progresses.</p> <p>The report also references new reporting and transparency requirements set out by the Government in March 2025.</p>
Putting our Residents First Delivering on the Council Strategy 2022-2026	<p>This report supports our ambition for residents / the Council of: An efficient, well-run, digital-enabled council working with partners to deliver services to improve the lives of all our residents</p> <p>This report supports our commitments to residents of: A Thriving Economy</p>
Financial Cost	<p>The report seeks the release approval of £12,152k from the Highways Improvement Programme 2025/26 capital budget for carriageway and footway structural and resurfacing works at various locations in the Borough. The works will commence upon release of the funds and are due for completion by the end of March 2026.</p>
Relevant Select Committee	Corporate Resources & Infrastructure Select Committee.
Relevant Ward(s)	All Wards

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet:

- 1) **Agree to progress the Highways Improvement Programme for 2025/26 of forthcoming carriageway and footway resurfacing works and streetlight column replacement, noting this will be undertaken in phases with phase 1 as set out in the report and Appendix A.**
- 2) **Agree to accept grant funding from the Department for Transport of £1,152k from the Highways Maintenance Block 2025/26.**
- 3) **Approve the Budget Virement to the 2025/26 Capital Programme Budget for the Highways Structural Works programme to increase the capital expenditure from £11,000k to £12,152k, funding the increase in expenditure with an increase in the grant funding total within capital financing, to be funded by the Highways Maintenance Block allocation for 2025/26.**
- 4) **Authorise the capital release of £12,152k for all phases, to fund the proposed Highways Improvement Programme for 2025/26.**
- 5) **Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Place to amend the programme and determine further works to be funded from the drawdown funds and Government grants, subject to sign-off by the Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing and Growth.**
- 6) **Note all schemes will also be published on the Council's website to ensure transparency as well as the other requirements to publicise details about potholes and roadworks advised by the Government in March 2025 and set out in this report.**

Reasons for recommendation

This recommendation proposes the allocation of resources to facilitate the works outlined by Highways Services, subject to approval by the Cabinet Member, with the first tranche outlined in this report and subsequent reporting for transparency on the Council's website.

Hillingdon is the second-largest borough in London, with 737 kilometres of carriageways and 1,215 kilometres of footways. The borough also contains over 30,370 streetlights and 33,000 gullies. During the previous financial year, the Council resurfaced 17.3 kilometres (10.74 miles) of carriageways and 10.25 kilometres (6.37 miles) of footways.

Hillingdon Council is committed to developing an active, sustainable, efficient, and safe transport network. A robust transport network will improve public health by reducing pollution and promoting active travel, decrease traffic congestion, and provide better sustainable transport options for short trips, such as walking, cycling, and public transport. This will also benefit the borough's economy by creating vibrant, well-connected areas that encourage local trade and visitors while reducing the negative impacts of traffic congestion.

The strategy for reclaiming and repurposing street space to create this network is a crucial foundation for enabling the Council to meet its broader objectives. This initiative presents an opportunity to renew infrastructure that serves all members of the community, including residents and businesses, while also facilitating the expansion of tree planting, the conversion of hard-standing areas to green spaces, and the promotion of active travel.

The schemes within this programme are developed following condition surveys conducted by independent consultants across the entire highway network, covering both carriageways and footways. The data gathered from these surveys, along with additional information such as complaints, defects, and traffic usage, has been used to prioritise the proposed works. The priority is to mitigate the deterioration of the borough's highway assets, thus preventing significant failures in roads, footways, verges, highway drainage, and street furniture. The aim is also to enhance the serviceability of the highway network, improving its visual appearance, rideability, and structural integrity. The established value management prioritisation criteria have been applied to select roads and pavements for resurfacing.

The proposed programme will be scheduled for implementation by the Council's term contractor. This approach will ensure that road improvement works are carried out promptly, as determined by Officers, with approval from the Cabinet Member and transparent reporting on the Council's website.

On the 23 January 2025 the Department for Transport announced the Highways Maintenance Block funding allocations, with Hillingdon confirmed to receive £1,152k, with this report recommending this grant is accepted and added to the Council's Highways Structural Works programme budget of £11,000k that was agreed by Cabinet and Council in February 2025, increasing available funding to £12,152k, with a budget virement requested to action this increase alongside an increase in grant funding within capital financing to fund the increased expenditure from the Highways Maintenance Block allocation.

In a related matter, the Government on 23 March 2025 has requested that councils publish reports on their websites by 30 June 2025, detailing their spending, the number of potholes filled, the condition of their roads, and efforts to minimise streetworks disruption. Additionally, councils must demonstrate increased spending on long-term preventative maintenance and robust plans for wetter winters. By the end of October, councils must also show how they are involving communities in decision-making about roadworks, with the public able to report potholes via an online portal.

Alternative options considered / risk management

There are no alternatives due to the level of deterioration as delaying schemes put forward for consideration by the Head of Highways may place additional pressure on the Council's financial resources should permanent repairs not be implemented in a timely manner.

In many instances, any delay of this programme may also have safety implications with a possible consequent impact on the Public Liability Insurance budget.

The Council could choose not to accept the Department for Transport grant and maintain the Capital Programme budget at £11,000k and reduce the cost of works accordingly.

Democratic compliance and/or previous authority

Cabinet may authorise the release of capital funds and initiate the programme of highways improvement works within the budget approved by the Full Council.

Select Committee comments

None at this stage. However, the Committee has undertaken an in-depth review more generally into the Council's road and pavement resurfacing programme.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

All costs in Table 1 below have been calculated using the schedule of rates contained in the Council's Highways term contract.

The cost of this programme is to be funded from the 2025/26 capital programme for Highways Structural and Renewal Works. The programme of work is estimated to be a total of £12,152k as detailed in Appendix A and Table 1 below.

Table 1: 2025/26 Highways Structural and Renewal Works Programme Cost Plan

Item	Cost (£)
Cost of Works	11,193,810
Less: Contractor Discounts	(895,505)
Sub Total	10,298,305
Engineers' Fees	823,864
Contingency	1,029,831
Total Project Cost	12,152,000

Financial Implications

Highways Improvement Programme 2025/26 Budget £12,152k; Previously Released Nil; Capital Release Requested £12,152k – Appendix A

The 2025/26 capital programme, approved by Cabinet and Council in February 2025, included a budget of £12,152k for the Highways Improvement Programme, funded from Council resources and grants.

The report seeks the release of £12,152k from the Highways Improvement Programme budget, as detailed in Appendix A.

The release of £12,152k includes the term contractor's quoted costs, internal fees based on 8% on carriageways and footways, and project contingency at 10% on carriageways and footways of the contractor works cost for both types of works after contractor discounts. These contractual discounts consist of the Timely Release Discount (or Forward Planning Discount) of 3.75% for works being made available to the contractor prior to August. This enables the supplier to build a greater amount of certainty into their internal programming. There is also the Volume Discount of 4.25% for consolidating work requirements rather than issuing multiple small task orders, applying when a task order of greater than £500k is placed (see Appendix below for details).

The report is also including the release of £11,069,815 within the £12,152k works amount, for which schemes have not yet been finalised, for further carriageways & footways resurfacing works, and delegating authority to approve the schemes to the Corporate Director of Place in

consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing & Growth. For transparency, the full list of schemes will be published on the Council's website when finalised.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

The benefit or impact upon Hillingdon residents, service users and communities

The carriageway resurfacing and footway improvement programme contains schemes to limit the deterioration of the fabric of the Borough's highways asset that can result in serious failure of roads, footways, verges, highway drainage and street furniture and improve the serviceability of the highway network for the benefit of residents and other road users.

Consultation carried out or required

N/A

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and concurs with the budgetary position set out above, noting that the proposed highway structural works will be funded from the approved Capital Budget for Highways Structural Works 2025/26. Works recommended for release total £12,152k, including externally contracted works costs (after contractor discounts), internal project management fees and project contingency.

Legal

Legal Services confirm that the Council, as a highway authority, is responsible for carrying out this function pursuant to section 41 of the Highways Act 1980.

Thus, there are no legal impediments to the Council authorising the capital release recommended in this report, although any contract that is entered into by the Council, such as the term contract with the Council's Highways term contractor under which the resurfacing works are to be carried out, must comply with the Council's Procurement Standing Orders, which were last updated effective 11th July 2024.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Government announcement 23 March 2025](#)

APPENDIX A - CAPITAL RELEASE REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL

Highways Structural Works Programme 2025/26 (Phase 1)

Location (Ward)	Project / Expenditure Title FW – Footway CW – Carriageway	Information	Funds Release Sought £	Approv e	Hold	More Informati on Required
ATTLE CLOSE (HILLINGDON WEST)	CW	FROM CEDARS DRIVE TO END	26,518			
CENTRAL AVENUE (WOOD END)	CW	FROM UXBRIDGE ROAD TO TOWNFIELD ROAD RB	251,358			
CHILTERN VIEW ROAD (UXBRIDGE)	CW	FROM COWLEY ROAD TO WHITEHALL ROAD	57,251			
ABINGDON CLOSE (HILLINGDON WEST)	FW	HILLINGDON WEST	94,453			
ACACIA AVENUE (YIEWSLEY)	FW	YIEWSLEY	277,654			
ATTLE CLOSE (HILLINGDON WEST)	FW	HILLINGDON WEST	39,911			
BLACKPOOL GARDENS (CHARVILLE)	FW	CHARVILLE	50,992			
BOLTONS LANE (HEATHROW VILLAGE)	FW	FROM BATH ROAD TO END	198,717			
DRAW DOWN	VARIOUS	HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS	10,196,956			
Sub-total			11,193,810			

All Locations	Carriageway & Footway Resurfacing	Timely Release Discount	(419,768)			
All Locations	Carriageway & Footway Resurfacing	Contractual Volume Discount	(475,737)			
All Locations	Carriageway & Footway Resurfacing	Engineers Fees	823,864			
All Locations	Carriageway & Footway Resurfacing	Contingencies	1,029,831			
Total seeking release			12,152,000			
Previously released			0			
Budget			12,152,000			
Remaining budget			0			