

HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME 2026/27

Cabinet Member & Portfolio	Cllr Steve Tuckwell – Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing & Economic Growth
Responsible Officer	Dan Kennedy – Corporate Director of Resident Services
Report Author & Directorate	Gurmeet Matharu – Residents Services
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 2026/27, 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 to DfT reporting and transparency requirements set out by the Government in March 2025.</p>
<p>Putting our Residents First</p> <p>Delivering on the Council Strategy 2022-2026</p>	<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	The report seeks the release approval of £8,207k from the Highways Improvement Programme 2026/27 capital budget for carriageway and footway structural and resurfacing works at various locations in the Borough. The works are due for completion by the end of March 2027.
Select Committee	Residents' Services Select Committee.
Relevant Ward(s)	All Wards

RECOMMENDATIONS

That:

- 1) **the Highways Improvement Programme for 2026/27 of forthcoming carriageway, footway resurfacing, highway drainage, road marking improvements and condition surveys, be approved, noting this will be undertaken in phases with phase 1 as set out in the report and Appendix A.**
- 2) **grant funding from the Department for Transport of £3,207k for Local highways maintenance funding 2026/27 be accepted.**
- 3) **the capital release of £8,207k for all phases, to fund the proposed Highways Structural Improvement Programme for 2026/27, be approved.**
- 4) **authority be delegated to the Corporate Director of Resident Services (who may sub-delegate) to amend the programme and determine further works to be funded from the drawdown funds and any other Government grants received, subject to sign-off by the Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder.**
- 5) **It be noted that 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 recommendations

These recommendations propose 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 appointed contractor, which is being considered elsewhere on this agenda.

On the 18 December 2025 the Department for Transport announced the Highways Maintenance Block funding allocations, with Hillingdon confirmed to receive £3,207k, with this report recommending this grant is accepted and added to the Council's Highways Structural Works programme budget of £5,000k that was agreed by Cabinet and Council in February 2026.

In a related matter, the Government requested that councils publish reports on their websites, 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. The 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 £5,000k 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. Cabinet may also delegate for efficient service delivery.

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

The Council's approved budget for the 2026/27 Highways Structural and Renewal Works Programme is set out below:

Item	Cost (£)
Approved Budget for Works	6,130,455
Internal Engineers' Fees	630,000
Contingency	446,545
Drainage Road Markings and Condition Surveys	1,000,000
Total Project Cost	8,207,000

Financial Implications

Highways Structural Improvement Programme 2026/27 Budget £8,207k; Previously Released Nil; Capital Release Requested £8,207k – Appendix A

The 2026/27 capital programme, approved by Cabinet and Council in February 2026, included a budget of £8,207k for the Highways Structural Improvement Programme, funded from Council resources and grants. The report seeks the release of £8,207k from the Highways Structural Improvement Programme budget, as detailed in Appendix A.

Phase 1 of works is set out in Appendix A, based on indicative costs and is recommended by Officers following independent inspections. Consequently, this leaves remaining funds, including approximately £3,800k for which schemes have not yet been finalised for further carriageways & footways resurfacing works, within the £8,207k budget. A recommendation in this report seeks delegated authority to approve future schemes to the Corporate Director of Residents Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member. 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

None required.

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 2026/27.

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. By agreeing the recommendations, the Council will be entering into an agreement with the Department for Transport. The Council's legal team will provide advice and assistance in respect of legal matters relating to subsequent contracts/grant agreements that will be required.

Thus, there are no legal impediments to the Council agreeing the recommendations and authorising the capital release recommended in this report, although any contract that is entered into by the Council, must comply with the Council's Procurement Standing Orders.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Government announcement 23 March 2025](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/highways-maintenance-funding-allocations/highways-maintenance-block-formula-allocations-2026-to-2030>

APPENDIX A - CAPITAL RELEASE REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL

Highways Structural Works Programme 2026/27 (Phase 1)

Location (Ward)	Project / Expenditure Title FW – Footway CW – Carriageway	Information	Funds Release Sought £
LEA CRESCENT (RUISLIP)	CW	FROM CLYFFORD ROAD TO CLYFFORD ROAD	
A408 STOCKLEY ROAD (HEATHROW)	CW	FROM HOLLOWAY LANE TO PROLOGIS RBT	
ROYAL LANE (YIEWSLEY)	CW	FROM BIRCH AVENUE TO FALLING LANE	
WHITBY ROAD (RUISLIP MANOR)	CW	FROM VICTORIA ROAD TO BEVERLEY ROAD	
WHITBY ROAD (RUISLIP MANOR)	CW	FROM FIELD END ROAD TO COLLINS DRIVE	
EAST AVENUE (HAYES TOWN)	CW	FROM EASTHOLME TO ORCHARD ROAD	
EAST AVENUE (HAYES TOWN)	CW	FROM COLDHARBOUR LANE TO MINET DRIVE	
COOMBE DRIVE (EASTCOTE)	FW	FROM SOUTHBOURNE GARDENS TO END	
LANGLEY AVENUE (EASTCOTE)	FW	FROM PINE GARDENS TO COOMBE DRIVE	

LEA CRESCENT (RUISLIP)	FW	FROM CLYFFORD ROAD TO CLYFFORD ROAD	
WHITBY ROAD (RUISLIP MANOR)	FW	FROM VICTORIA ROAD TO BEVERLEY ROAD	
WHITBY ROAD (RUISLIP MANOR)	FW	FROM FIELD END ROAD TO COLLINS DRIVE	
FAIRWAY AVENUE (WEST DRAYTON)	FW	FROM FAIRWAY CLOSE TO END HSE NO 150	
FAIRWAY AVENUE (WEST DRAYTON)	FW	FROM LAWN AVENUE TO FAIRWAY CLOSE	
Indicative Phase 1 budget			2,330,847
DRAW DOWN (PHASE 2)	VARIOUS	HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS	3,799,608
DRAINAGE, ROAD MARKINGS & SURVEYS	VARIOUS	HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS	1,000,000
Indicative total works budget			7,130,455
All Locations	CW & FW	Internal Engineers Fees	630,000
All Locations	CW & FW	Contingencies	446,545
Total seeking release			8,207,000
Previously released			0
Budget			8,207,000
Remaining budget			0