

Pothole Action Fund Report

In 2016/17 Luton Borough Council was awarded £59,000 from the [Pothole Action Fund](#) to address the issue of highway condition and potholes within the borough. The Pothole Action Fund was additional funding received in excess of the original DfT Highway Maintenance funding allocation and local capital funding for highway resurfacing. The total funding received for maintenance in 2016/17 is detailed as follows;

Funding Source	Value
DfT Highway Maintenance-Needs Allocation	1,254,000
DfT Highway Maintenance-Incentive Fund	77,000
DfT Pothole Fund	59,000
LBC Resurfacing	1,366,800
Total Maintenance Allocation	2,756,800

The Pothole Action Fund was used to complement the existing maintenance programme by enabling additional areas to be treated and to contribute to the reduction in the deterioration of the highway and to reduce further occurrences of potholes.

The following roads benefitted from being treated as part of the Pothole Action Fund;

Dudley Street-whole length	455m ² resurfaced
Roman Road/Dordans Road junction	436m ² resurfaced
Austin Road/New Bedford Road junction	326m ² resurfaced

The full £59,000 was spent and has been targeted at these three roads, as customer feedback and highway inspectors referrals deemed these roads as priority for remedy.

Dudley Street was showing signs of deformation and crazing, which would have led to large potholes if left untreated.

Roman Road at the junction of Dordans Road had numerous potholes formed that had already been made safe with temporary asphalt but required a permanent solution.

Austin Road at junction of New Bedford Road was extensively crazed with the carriageway surface breaking up locally with potholes forming. The Highway Inspector had attempted to make safe the surface after numerous customer reports but a permanent solution was needed.

All sections were machine surfaced at depth of 100- 150mm with a permanent repair giving an expected surface life of between 10-15 years.

In addition to the Pothole Action Fund, Luton has established a medium-term fix solution in the form of the 'Seek & Repair' team, whose purpose is to find and fill all potholes thus ensuring routes can continue to be used with minimum disruption to the highway user.

With the current level of funding available to Luton, the issue of 'managed deterioration' will remain. However, the Pothole Action Fund does help toward improving the condition of the highway and will be utilised for the term the funding is available.