

COUNTY COUNCIL – 18 OCTOBER 2016
WRITTEN QUESTION UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 9.2

Question from Councillor Maurice Leeke

The white lines on the carriageway for the roundabout above the A14 are now virtually invisible. Despite many requests, including from local parish councils, we have had no success in getting these lines repainted.

Could the Chairman of Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee please use whatever influence he has with the Highways Agency to have this work done.

Response from Councillor Mac McGuire
Chairman of Highways and Community Infrastructure Policy and Service Committee

Thank you for your question regarding the road markings on the A10 roundabout, which runs over the A14.

Officers are fully aware of the poor state of these road markings and have been working hard to get the lines repainted. As you will be aware the A14 (including slip roads) is the responsibility of Highways England (HE) and in this instance so too is the structure that sits above the A14. This structure enables the A10 to run over the top of the A14. The road surface and thus the road markings are however the responsibility of the County Council (CCC).

The nature of the junction arrangement and interaction between the A10 and A14 means it is more complex than normal for work to take place and a significant level of traffic management is required to allow the works to take place safely. This in turn results in a much higher cost to that which is ordinarily associated with repainting road markings.

Officers have been working hard with Highways England for some time to identify a safe and affordable method of delivering these works and so I am now pleased to confirm that a cost and appropriate level of traffic management has been agreed with the aim of completing the works by the end of November. As soon as we have a firm date the Local Highway Officer managing this work will update the Local Member and Parish Council.

Question from Councillor Susan van de Ven

Given the council's overwhelming objective to support independent and healthy living for all, reduce traffic congestion, and encourage walking wherever possible, what priority is given to pavement repair in the expenditure of our Highways maintenance budget? What is the proportionate expenditure of County Highways maintenance budget on roads and pavements?

Response from Councillor Mac McGuire
Chairman of Highways and Community Infrastructure Policy and Service Committee

Thank you for your question regarding the highway maintenance budget.

The relative allocations of funding for roads and pavements align with the principles set out in the County Council's approved Strategy for Highway Asset Management. This Strategy notes the importance of the county's roads, that they are the highway assets in most need of attention and the imperative to arrest the deterioration of Cambridgeshire's roads. The Strategy also notes the importance that residents attach to the condition of the county's roads.

Since April 2015 the Council has been working to the standards set out in our Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (HIAMP). The HIAMP outlines how the Asset Management Strategy objectives will be achieved; setting out service standards, response times and reactive maintenance intervention levels that can be resourced and which are financially sustainable. The plan gives consistency of approach across the Highways service to ensure our limited resource is spent well.

The total highway maintenance budget for 2016/17 (excluding staff and overheads) is £20,030,334. This is made up of funding from the Local Transport Plan, Prudential Borrowing and specific grants (e.g. pothole action fund) and is a mix of capital and revenue.

The current split between roads and pavements is:

Pothole specific funding (Inc. patching)	£3,018,567
Footway specific funding	£1,698,224
Road maintenance (non-patching)	£15,313,543
Total	£20,030,334

Members have the opportunity to amend the approach, standards and intervention levels set out in the HIAMP on an annual basis, taking into account the total budget available. The current standards reflect the funding levels set out within the County Council's Business Plan from 2015/16 until 2019/20. It is reviewed annually and approved by members prior to the start of each financial year. The HIAMP is currently being reviewed in preparation for 2017/18 and will come before the Highways & Community Infrastructure committee in February 2017 seeking member approval.