

**COUNTY COUNCIL: 20TH JULY 2021**

Amendment proposed by Councillor Lucy Nethsingha

Additions in bold and deletions shown in strikethrough

Motion from Councillor Steve Tierney

This Council recognises that our County highways have been significantly underfunded for many years, ~~through various administrations (including when Labour, the Liberal Democrats and Independents shared control.) While there may have been good reasons for hard decisions to be taken, the situation is unsustainable.~~

This Council notes that the highways budget has experienced a £6m reduction in central government grant compared to the previous year. ~~The LibDem (led) Administration has failed to allocate £6.3 Million to the highways budget from the identified revenue underspend in 2020-21, despite suggestions during election campaigns that the paucity of highways condition would be remedied.~~

**This Council notes that while no new money has been allocated to the highways budget since the reduction in funding from the Conservative government, the new Joint Administration has made a long term commitment to seek to maintain or increase spending on highways, footways and cycle maintenance. The new administration has also made a commitment to health in all policies and will be seeking to increase the accessibility of active travel and public transport to all residents across Cambridgeshire, working in partnership with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) and Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP).**

Areas of deprivation, already subject to disparities of wealth and health are of particular concern when even their basic infrastructure is in poor condition. **The less well off are particularly hard hit by lack of access to public transport or walking and cycling infrastructure. Health and education outcomes are significantly worse in areas of high deprivation, and lack of access to transport for those who cannot drive is one factor in those poorer outcomes.**

~~Urgent action must be taken before our highways fall into any further disrepair. This action is needed across the County, but initial focus should be on those areas with the greatest deprivation.~~

Areas of Greatest Deprivation:

Fenland 003F	Staithe	1758
Fenland 002C	Waterlees	2010
Fenland 002D	Waterlees	2857
Fenland 007B	March East	3174
Fenland 003I	Medworth	3986

Fenland 003H	Medworth	4231
Cambridge 006F	Abbey	4183
Fenland 001D	Roman Bank	4872
Cambridge 006D	Abbey	5217
Fenland 004C	Elm & Christchurch	5380
Fenland 003C	Octavia Hill	5517
Fenland 006D	Lattersey	5753
Fenland 002A	Clarkson	5877
Cambridge 001C	Kings Hedges	6022
Hunts 008B	Huntingdon N.	6125
Hunts 008A	Huntingdon E.	6204
Fenland 003B	Octavia Hill	6816
Fenland 004A	Elm & Christchurch	6854
Fenland 005A	March Nth.	6920
Fenland 004E	Parson Drove & Wisbech St Mary	6927
Fenland 004F	Parson Drove & Wisbech St Mary	7346
Hunts 022D	Eaton Socon	7433

This motion does not seek to blame the current administration, as successive budgets have created the issue. It does, however, note that the current administration now has the power to take decisions to address an imbalance between the wealthiest and poorest parts of the County.

Therefore this Council agrees to:

- a) An immediate audit of roads and footpaths ~~in these areas or greatest deprivation to be concluded before Winter 2021.~~ **and cycle paths across the County, focussing first on areas of high deprivation.**
- b) **Work with the CPCA and GCP to audit access to public transport across the County, with a particular focus on access to post-16 education.**
- b)c) **To achieve improvements in highways according to need advised by Officers.** ~~Dedicated and significant spend on the highways and footpaths of the following divisions; Staithe, Waterlees, March East & Rural, Medworth, Abbey to bring all highways in these areas up to a quality standard that taxpayers and road users should be able to expect. This work to take place in 2021 and 2022.~~
- e) d) **To review further highways maintenance as part of its Highways Improvement Board currently being established.** ~~This action to be followed by extensive audits in other areas in 2022, once these areas of deprivation are completed and in good condition.~~