



EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

REPORT OF: Executive Member for Regeneration

LEAD OFFICERS: Director of Growth and Development

DATE: 8 February 2018

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED: Regeneration

WARD/S AFFECTED: Sunnyhurst

KEY DECISION: YES NO

SUBJECT: Woodlands Grove, Darwen

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Residents of Woodlands Grove, Darwen have submitted a petition to the Council requesting that their road be resurfaced.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

1. That the lead petitioner be informed of the decision not to resurface.

3. BACKGROUND

Woodlands Grove is an adopted 152m long cul-de-sac off Sunnyhurst Lane giving access to 25 homes. The road appears to have been built in two phases, the first section is relatively level after this the road steepens rapidly; it is this latter section that is in particularly poor repair. The footways have several reinstatements and some areas have perished.

In accordance with the Council's Highway Safety Defect Inspection Procedure this road is inspected annually and any defects which exceed the stipulated tolerances are repaired. The table below identifies this repair history since 1st January 2014.

| Year | Number of defects | | |
|-------|-------------------|---------|-------|
| | Carriageway | Footway | Other |
| 2014 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 2015 | 13 | 0 | 2 |
| 2016 | 22 | 1 | 2 |
| 2017 | 12 | 2 | 2 |
| Total | 47 | 3 | 7 |

Resurfacing enquires have been received previously directly from residents and via their local

councillors and MP. The Council's responses explained that roads are recommended for resurfacing on a prioritisation basis. Potential schemes are be prioritised to reflect not only road condition but also the importance of any given road within the overall network, this includes factors such as the volume of traffic and consideration of what facilities, such as hospitals, health centres & schools, can be accessed using that road.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

The petition focuses on the resident's serious concern about the condition of the carriageway and draws attention to tarmac surface breaking up and exposing the underlying structural layer, it notes that these differences in level cause vehicles to rock and that there is an (unspecified) danger to pedestrians. The petition is signed by residents from 15 households and is attached as Appendix 1.

The surface course of tarmac has been lost in several areas on the steep section, exposing the underlying structural surfacing, this appears to be composed of limestone, which offers less friction to vehicles traversing this part of the road than the original tarmac.

The condition of the road was noted in 2015 and it was one of several roads identified as reserve schemes for the Network Recovery programme, which has now concluded. The estimated cost of resurfacing carriageways and footways is £29,000.

The previous long term plan for highway work, approved by the Executive Member for Regeneration and published on 3th February 2017 described the authority's approach and commitment to highway maintenance. Funding for capital highway maintenance is now in the region of £548,000 pa, the pattern of work is described in the [Executive Board Decision](#) and summarised below.

2017/18 Structural Footway Maintenance
2018/19 Surface dressing
2019/20 Structural Footway Maintenance
2020/21 Carriageway Surfacing, resilient routes.

The number and frequency of requests for resurfacing appear to be increasing, recently received enquiries include:

- Kelsall Avenue, Blackburn
- Amber Avenue, Blackburn
- Beryl Avenue, Blackburn
- St Michaels Close, Blackburn
- Harbour Lane, Edgworth
- Hob Lane, Crow Trees Lane, Entwistle Hall Lane, Edgworth
- Woodbank Avenue, Darwen
- Sarah Street, Darwen
- Parsonage Road, Blackburn
- Yew Tree Drive, service roads, Blackburn

Present funding levels, both revenue and capital, effectively restrict consideration of only the Borough's major classified roads for the foreseeable future. It would be unrealistic to expect or anticipate routine, planned resurfacing of any side streets or cul-de-sacs in the foreseeable future. Whilst the structural condition and visual appearance of these roads will continue to deteriorate the authority will continue to inspect them to ensure that safety defects are identified and repaired.

The public disillusionment in the condition of the highway is reflected in the disappointing results expressed in the recent NHT survey reported previously.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The highway revenue budget is fully committed to routine and reactive maintenance, the capital maintenance budget is committed to the programme described above which effectively precludes resurfacing roads such as Woodlands Grove.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council has a duty to maintain the adopted highway under the Highways Act 1980.

This is an ordinary petition as defined in the Council's constitution as being one signed by at least 6 people and submitted by people who live, work or study in the Borough. Part 7 of the Constitution outlines the possible mechanisms for petitions and this report and response is one such type of valid response.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. (*insert EIA link here*)

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. (*insert EIA attachment*)

10. CONSULTATIONS

None

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded in the Summary of Decisions published on the day following the meeting.

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|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| VERSION: | 1 |
| CONTACT OFFICER: | Matthew Joyce |
| DATE: | 21 st December 2017 |
| BACKGROUND PAPER: | Appendix 1 Petition Received. |