



EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

REPORT OF: Executive Member for Growth and Development

LEAD OFFICERS: Director of Environment and Operations

DATE: 13th June 2019

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED: Growth and Development

WARD/S AFFECTED: Billinge and Beardwood

KEY DECISION: YES ☐ NO ☒

SUBJECT: Petition requesting the resurfacing of Hudson Close, Blackburn.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A petition signed by 18 residents of 17 properties from a total of 21 properties on Hudson Close, Blackburn, has been submitted to the Council requesting that their road be resurfaced.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

- Notes the petition.
- Supports the Officers' recommendation that the request for resurfacing be refused but that a large patch repair be carried out to the area of worst condition.
- Request that Officers inform the Lead Petitioner of the decision.

3. BACKGROUND

Hudson Close is an adopted 142m long cul-de-sac off St Lawrence Avenue giving access to 21 homes. The residents believe that it has been over 30 years since the road was last resurfaced and "that only temporary, unsatisfactory, patched repairs have been carried out". They claim that the "road is hazardous for vehicles, especially after heavy rainfall (deep puddles) and dangerous for pedestrians because of the uneven nature of the road surface". The petition erroneously cites East Park Avenue as being resurfaced after five years, this road, which benefits St Mary's College and local shops, was surfaced dressed five years after it was resurfaced. Surface dressing is not suitable for Hudson Close.

In 2018 the Council commissioned a condition survey of its entire highway network, the results of which categorised carriageways and footways as follows:

Red	Grade 5	Structurally impaired
Amber	Grade 4	Functionally impaired
Yellow	Grade 3	Mid life
Green	Grade 2	Signs of surface wear
Blue	Grade 1	Free from defects

The footways of Hudson Close were shown as approximately 60% Blue and 40% Yellow whereas the carriageway was almost entirely classed as Red, i.e. structurally impaired.

In accordance with the Council's Safety Inspection Procedure for Highways this road is inspected annually and any defects which exceed the intervention levels are repaired. The table below identifies this repair history since 1st January 2015.

Year	Number of defects		
	Carriageway	Footway	Other
2015			1
2016	9		
2017	3	1	
2018	9		
Total	21	1	1

This defect history supports the results of the condition survey that the major issues lie with the carriageway with the footways generally being acceptable.

An individual resident wrote to the Council last August regarding the condition of the road and was informed that there were no plans to resurface the road. The Council response explained that resurfacing is prioritised across the Borough taking into account not only the condition of the road but also the volume of traffic using it and facilities, such as schools, hospitals & health centres that are accessed via it. Cul-de-sacs such as Hudson Close, which only provide access to a limited number of homes, are, therefore a lower priority for scarce resurfacing monies.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

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 £540,000 pa.

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. Unfortunately, the structural condition and visual appearance of these roads will continue to deteriorate, however the authority will continue to inspect them to ensure that safety defects are identified and repaired.

Notwithstanding the above, a visual inspection shows that the major area of concern on Hudson Close is an approximately 75 metre length of carriageway just over a metre wide along the southern side of the cul-de-sac. It is this area that has been the subject of safety defect repairs over the years. The condition of this area is such that it will continue to deteriorate more rapidly than the rest of the carriageway resulting in an increasing maintenance liability going forward.

Therefore, whilst it may not be realistic to resurface the entire carriageway of Hudson Close, officers recommend that a 'large patch' repair be carried out to this area at an estimated cost of £7,500.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed repair at an estimated cost of £7,500 be financed from the highway revenue budget. The capital maintenance budget is committed to the long term plan for highway work which effectively precludes resurfacing roads such as Hudson Close.

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.

VERSION:	1
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CONTACT OFFICER:	George Bell
DATE:	25 th April 2019
BACKGROUND PAPER:	Petition