



CABINET REPORT

Date Written	17 th August 2021
Report Author	Darren Chaffe / Carwyn Morris
Service Area	Highways
Committee Division	Portfolio
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	8 th September 2021

To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

Funding to Support Highway Repairs

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 Highways Maintenance are responsible for the management and maintenance of the County Borough's adopted highway network. This includes regular inspection, repair and maintenance of roads and footways.
- 1.2 There is currently a substantial backlog of 950 highway defects, all of which meet the criteria of a potential claim against the authority.
- 1.3 If an additional £250,000 was invested into carrying out highway repairs this financial year the backlog of highway defects could be significantly reduced.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION that

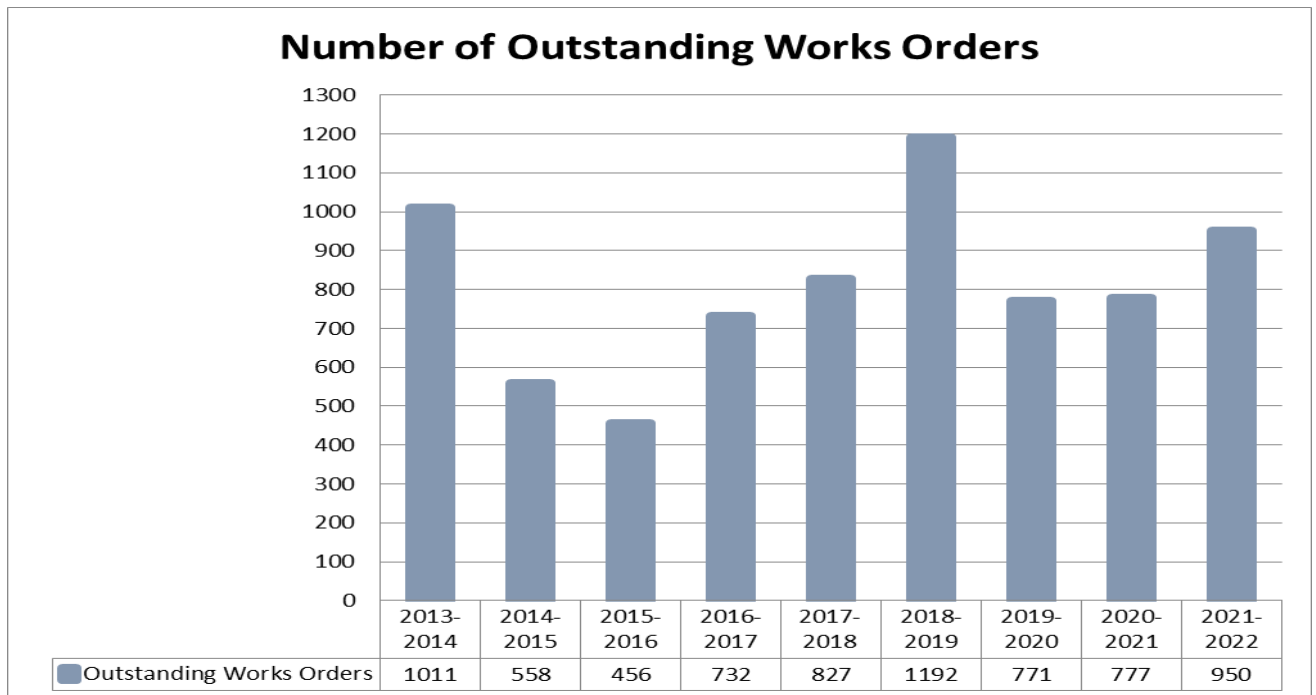
- 2.1 An additional £250,000 is invested from reserves to undertake highway repairs thereby reducing the extensive backlog of safety defects and the risk of potential third-party claims against the Council, be approved.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Highways Maintenance are responsible for the management and maintenance of the County Borough's adopted highway network. The department undertakes regular inspections, repairs and maintenance of roads and footways.

3.2 Due to a significant reduction in highways funding since 2013 highway defects have increased to a degree that it is impossible to manage without additional investment. Since 2013 the lowest number of recorded defects was 456 in 2015/16 with the highest being 1192 in 2018/19.

3.3 The graph below demonstrates the number of outstanding works orders since 2013. By definition the outstanding works orders are all classed as safety related defects where each one meets the criteria of a potential third-party claim against the authority. This also means that each defect presents a risk to the public where an accident or damage to a vehicle may occur.



3.4 These outstanding safety defects contribute to the high number of complaints received from local residents. The outstanding works orders range from potholes, defective paving, kerbs, gullies and manhole covers.

3.5 The outstanding safety defects as stated above present an insurance risk to the Council for slips, trips, falls and car tyre claims. For each insurance claim Highways generates lost hours of staff time in producing reports and possible court appearances to defend the Council.

3.6 Additional investment this financial year could reduce the number of claimable defects close to zero. It must be noted that highway defects can occur at any time, however, reducing the number significantly this year will allow the Highways team to effectively control and prevent the number of defects increasing to the levels shown in the graph in 3.3.

3.7 If approved the 950 works orders will be provided to an external contractor appointed in accordance with the Councils procurement rules to undertake all the repair work this financial year.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Highways to receive an additional £250,000 in 2021/22 to invest into the highways network and carry out essential repairs thereby reducing the potential risk of claims against the authority.

5.0 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1

	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts	Neutral/ Not Applicable
1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives	1 of 4	0 of 4	3 of 4
2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you considered the five ways of working? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration • Involvement 	5 of 5	0 of 5	0 of 5
3. Protected Characteristics (including Welsh Language)	1 of 10	0 of 10	9 of 10
4. Socio-economic Disadvantage	0 of 6	0 of 6	6 of 6
5. Consultation and Engagement	Undertaken	Due to be Undertaken	Not Required
	0 of 1	0 of 1	1 of 1
6. Data and Evidence to inform the proposal	Yes		No
	1 of 1		0 of 1
7. Biodiversity and the resilience of Ecosystems	Maintained	Enhanced	Reduced
	0 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1
Summary			
The main positive impacts are:	This proposal seeks to assist the maintenance of the highway infrastructure, it highlights that the 5 ways of working have been considered.		
The main negative impacts are:	There are no negative impacts.		

JUDITH JONES
CHIEF OFFICER PLANNING &
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

COUNCILLOR DAVID HUGHES
CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING &
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		No

Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.