

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THE MAY 2024 AGENDA

Correspondence a)

“Thank you for your email regarding the parish council's concerns about the way we repair the county's carriageway.

I answer to your main point, unfortunately, some repairs we undertake can fail. This happens for various reasons, not least because we sometimes must press ahead with repairs in less-than-ideal weather conditions. Moisture ingress is one of our considerations when we carry out surface repairs. We acknowledge that the network has suffered considerable damage in 2023/2024 resulting in unprecedented number of defects. The rate of deterioration has been significantly exacerbated by the high rainfall levels which have been between 135% and 175% of the recorded seasonal average since the summer of 2023 and throughout the winter period. Please be assured that we are continuing to work through repairing all the pothole defects that we have identified.

As well as traditional methods, we use several innovative approaches to ensure we carry out repairs quickly, cost effectively, and with minimal waste. One such method is known as an 'infill' repair. We use this method in certain circumstances, usually where it would be impractical to cut around a defect to create a neat repair. We first clean out the existing hole, before applying a liquid bitumen emulsion to the bottom and sides. We then fill the hole with new bitumen. When the repair sets, the liquid emulsion helps provide a substantial seal extending the full depth of the joint. Whilst this method may not provide a neat finish, it does provide a long-lasting repair. Further information about our repair methods, is available online at:

Potholes - Lancashire County Council.

As you are aware, the government announced plans to cancel the Birmingham to Manchester leg of the "HS2" high speed rail project on 4 October 2023. They also revealed plans to reinvest any funds saved into Network North. We do not yet know how much funding Lancashire may receive, or how that funding should be spent. However, I can assure you that we will make a compelling case for the county to receive support for our highest priority transport schemes. These will help bring significant benefits to the county's economy, businesses, and residents.

Regarding next steps on any business case development work for Network North, we will be considering the widest range of schemes and priorities carefully once we have the necessary government guidance and any indicative allocations.”
