

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Executive Decision Record**

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Universal Services
Date:	27 November 2023
Title:	Highways – Stronger Roads Today Service Update
Report From:	Director of Universal Services

Contact name: Peter Rooney

Tel: **Email:** peter.rooney@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

- 1.1. That the Executive Lead Member for Universal Services notes the work that the Highways service has already undertaken in response to the severe weather experienced over the 2022/23 winter season and approves the continuing work and additional measures proposed under the delivery strategy for the *Stronger Roads Today* campaign, announced in June 2023, and as detailed within the supporting report, which utilises the additional £22.5million allocated for reactive highway maintenance over the next three years.
- 1.2. That the Executive Lead Member for Universal Services approves a deferral of the full implementation of the Highway Network Recovery Strategy until 2025/26 at the earliest, subject to a further review in Autumn 2024.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. To provide the Executive Lead Member for Universal Services with details of the work that has already been undertaken by the County Council's Highways service in response to the severe weather experienced over the past winter season and seek approval for the proposed short/medium/longer term delivery strategy for arresting the accelerated deterioration of the highway network, utilising the additional funding allocated as part of the *Stronger Roads Today* campaign.
- 2.2. The Highway Network Recovery Strategy was first approved in March 2022 by the Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment but due to the impact of external events the full implementation of this strategy was deferred. The focus and priorities for the highways service has been forced to change in order to enable an effective response to the unprecedented events of the past winter. As a consequence, the implementation of the Highway Network Recovery Strategy needs to be deferred again until 2025/26 at the earliest, subject to a further review in Autumn 2024, and confirmation of future Department for Transport block funding arrangements beyond 2024/25.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. To continue to deliver highway maintenance in a similar manner to previous years, albeit with additional funding. This option was rejected as it would not provide the immediate targeted response and repairs required following the winter damage. Continuing with the normal strategies for highway maintenance would not provide the necessary focus on carriageway maintenance that is required and would arguably expose the road network to further deterioration and insufficient resilience for the coming winter season.
- 3.2. The option to proceed with full implementation of the Highway Network Recovery Strategy from 2024/25 was rejected as it would not focus service delivery in the right areas of need given the current priorities and could expose the County Council to additional risks and reputational damage.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

I thank the Universal Services Select Committee for scrutinising and unanimously supporting the recommendations in the report for my decision day.

Approved by:

Date:

DocuSigned by:

Nick Adams-King

27 November 2023

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**Executive Lead Member for Universal Services
Councillor Nick Adams-King**