

Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No. 06/23

Date: 3 February 2023

Briefing paper to: All Members of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Purpose:

The response below helps identify the difference in unadopted and adopted roads maintained by Medway Council and the prioritisation in undertaking maintenance on these.

Non-highway (Unadopted) Roads Managed by the Council

There are a number of roads which are Council owned but do not form part of the public highway. These roads are not assessed under the same criteria as the adopted highway network identified below. The reason for this is that non-highway roads are generally managed by departments outside of Highways and whilst these departments ensure these roads are safe for use and where required undertake minor repairs, they do not have funding to undertake larger scale works. In exceptional circumstances where funding allows, the Highways department will undertake more substantial repairs.

Highway (Adopted) Roads Managed by the Council

The length of the Medway Council's highway network consists of 827km of carriageways, making it one of the largest assets owned by Medway Council. Medway Council as a Highway Authority has a statutory duty to maintain the public highway but fulfilling that duty with such an extensive network can be challenging. The process involved during scheme selection help justifies why it is important for there to be a sustainable assessment and prioritising process in place, to ensure that funding is spent responsibly by concentrating on the most deteriorated areas of the Highway Network.

Before considering a part of the highway for resurfacing, the site is scored using an assessment pro-forma matrix system. This matrix takes several influencing site factors into consideration with each providing individual scores. These scores are totalled together to provide an assessment priority rating for the scheme. This priority rating helps to identify the overall condition of the scheme when comparing it with the other areas of the network. Those schemes that have

scored highest are automatically selected when putting together a programme of resurfacing schemes for the coming financial year. This system ensures that those parts of the highway in most need of maintenance are individually and fairly prioritised for resurfacing. A more in-depth breakdown of the assessment criteria can be found on the Council's website at <https://www.medway.gov.uk/resurfacing>

Granville Road Access Road

This particular road, whilst not Highway is well used by local residents and in recent years has deteriorated and seen severe rutting and flooding of both the road and footway. The road is managed by the Councils Property department who have on occasion in the past funded the filling of Potholes. However, the agreement at O&S to regrade, fill and compact this road at the cost of £33,000 is being treated as an exception case. The Highways department completed these works in November 2022.