
Executive Member Decision Session - Neighbourhoods

24 March 2010

Report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services

HIGHWAY DRAINAGE – SURVEY AND REPAIR

Summary

1. This report informs the Executive Member on the progress made in tackling highway standing water problems using the additional funding provided over the last two financial years, and the proposals for spending the £200k allocated for 2010/11.

Background

2. In 2008 a growth bid was approved to provide £200k to deal with some of the most persistent and troublesome highway drainage problems. An exercise was carried out to identify locations which had produced repeated customer complaints, or were known to officers and Ward Members as areas where significant ponding had not been eased by normal reactive maintenance. These locations were prioritised for investigation in accordance with the criteria set out in the report to the City Strategy EMAP on 2 June 2008:
 - locations where flooding affects, or is quite likely to affect, property
 - locations adjacent to well used footways
 - locations adjacent to footways near elderly person's homes
 - locations where standing water is at a critical location for braking or turning
 - locations where flooding problems are frequent and have been persistent for some years
 - locations where flooding is particularly extensive
3. In a few cases the ponding ceased after simple cleaning and jetting and/or the installation of additional gullies. In other areas extensive survey, cleaning and remedial works were necessary to locate the drainage network and ensure an effective outfall is available. Many drains were found to be heavily silted. Records of drainage networks have been collected for inclusion in the highway database. Collapsed manholes and drains have been replaced, and utility companies required to repair damage caused by their works. In four locations

it was proven that problems were caused by deficiencies in the Yorkshire Water system downstream, and these have been brought to their attention for repair, with two attended to so far. Where investigations or subsequent heavy rainfall showed that further problems existed, the scope of the work was extended. All repairs have been carried out with a view to assisting future maintenance and thus reducing the recurrence of problems.

4. Throughout the works, the priority list was regularly reassessed with regard to prevailing conditions and the results of investigations. A list of all locations where work was carried out using the additional funding during 2008/9 and 2009/10 is attached as Annex 1.
5. The opportunity to carry out more extensive investigations and works in problem areas than is possible within normal maintenance regimes and budget constraints, has resulted in significant reductions in persistent ponding following heavy rain. In addition to benefiting the residents whose property had been affected by water running off the highway, the works have also reduced the hazard to drivers of water standing on roads, and the discomfort to pedestrians who were splashed with water by passing traffic.
6. Although the period 2007 to 2010 was unusually wet, (2008 was the wettest year, and November 2009 the wettest November, since Met Office records for East and North East England began in 1914) customer satisfaction with drainage from roads and footpaths, as measured by the TalkAbout survey, has risen slightly from 47% in 2007 to 50% in 2009/10. Also, the percentage of highway related public enquiries which were categorised as 'blocked gully' or 'highway drainage' reduced from 22% in 2007/8 to 15% in 2009/10.
7. At the meeting on 16 February 2010 the Executive approved the allocation of an additional £1m for Highways Maintenance and Flooding Alleviation. It is proposed to use £200k of this to continue the drainage work.

Proposals

8. Annex 2 contains a list of locations which will be considered for attention in 2010/11. It includes:
 - locations where work has already been carried out, but further work would be beneficial.
 - locations which were on the previous lists for attention but have yet to be dealt with
 - additional locations where serious ponding persists despite normal routine and reactive maintenance
9. Given the hidden nature of drainage systems it is not possible to estimate in advance the cost of works necessary to alleviate problems at any particular location. It is therefore proposed to continue the approach used over the last 2 years. The locations will be prioritised for attention in accordance with the criteria set out in paragraph 2, and the cost effectiveness of the works required. The priorities will be reassessed regularly through the year in the light of prevailing conditions and the results of investigations, and any further

locations which are brought to officers' attention will also be considered for inclusion in the programme.

Consultation

10. The funding was allocated as a result of feedback received from the 2010 budget consultation process. In the category 'Top priorities for spending', the option 'maintaining highway and footpath maintenance at current levels, allowing for inflation', was supported by 97% of respondents.
11. The 2009/10 TalkAbout survey recorded lowest customer satisfaction with drainage of water from roads and footpaths in Area E (Bishophthorpe, Wheldrake, Fishergate, Fulford, Heslington)

Corporate Priorities

12. Through the proposed measures Neighbourhood Services supports delivery of the Thriving City, Sustainable City, Safer City, Inclusive City and Effective Organisation themes from the corporate strategy.

Implications

Financial

13. The funding for highways maintenance and flood alleviation has been approved for 2010/11 and there are no financial implications arising from this report.

Human Resources (HR)

14. There are no HR implications identified in this report. It is likely that investigation and repair works will be carried out by drainage engineers from York Consultancy and staff from NS.

Equalities

15. The work carried out will benefit everyone in the community, particularly those who are blind or partially sighted and who may be more at risk of being splashed by passing traffic travelling through standing water. There are no equalities implications.

Legal

16. The Council has a statutory duty to carry out highway maintenance under Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 and this report sets out the proposals to assist with this so far as standing water and localised flooding are concerned.

Crime and Disorder

17. There are no crime and disorder issues.

Information Technology (IT)

18 There are no IT implications.

Property

19. There are no property implications.

Other

20. There are no other implications.

Risk Management

21. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy the main risks that have been identified and measured in terms of impact and likelihood, the risk scores have been assessed at less than 16. This means that at this point the risks need only to be monitored, as they do not provide a real threat to the achievement of the objectives of this report.

Recommendations

22. It is recommended that the Executive Member approve the proposals in this report to enable the survey and repair works to continue in 2010/11, to assist in alleviating localised highway flooding and standing water problems.

Reason: To ensure delivery of highway maintenance services in an efficient and cost effective manner.

Contact Details

Author:

Andy Binner
Head of Highway Infrastructure
Neighbourhood Services
Tel: (01904 553231)

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Sally Burns
Director of Neighbourhood Services

Report Approved

Date 10/03/2010

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Highway Drainage, Survey and Repair – City Strategy EMAP 2 June 2008
Capital Programme Budget – 2010/11 to 2014/15 – Executive 16 February 2010

Annexes – 1. Locations where drainage investigations and works were carried out in 2008/9 and 2009/10. **2.** Locations where drainage investigations and works will be considered in 2010/11

ANNEX 1

Locations where drainage investigations and works were carried out in 2008/9:

| STREET | LOCATION | WARD |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Straight Lane | Holtby | Derwent |
| Cowper Lane | Acaster Malbis | Bishophorpe |
| Church Lane | Thorganby | Wheldrake |
| Moor Lane / Ox Carr Lane | Strensall | Strensall |
| Hob Moor underpass | | Dringhouses & Woodthorpe |
| East Parade | | Heworth |
| Windmill Lane | | Hull Road |
| Acaster Lane | j/w Main Street | Bishophorpe |
| Carr Lane | | Acomb / Holgate |
| Greengales Lane | Elvington | Wheldrake |
| Windsor Garth | Newbury Avenue junction | Westfield |
| Haxby Road | New Earswick | Huntington & N Earswick |
| High Petergate | | Guildhall |
| Peter Lane | | Guildhall |
| Tadcaster Road | Knavesmire Road to Moor Lane | Micklegate / Dringhouses & Woodthorpe |
| Huntington Road | Huntington School, Burn Estate area | Huntington |
| Stockton Lane, S on F | Dean's garden centre to Cherry Tree Farm | Strensall |
| The Village, S on F | Stone Riggs to de Mauley Place | Strensall |
| Sandy Lane, S on F | Barr Lane to Fircroft | Strensall |
| North Lane | adj A64 | Huntington |
| The Horseshoe | | Dringhouses & Woodthorpe |
| School Lane | Fulford | Fulford |

Locations where drainage investigations and works were carried out in 2009/10:

| STREET | LOCATION | WARD |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Ox Carr Lane, Strensall* | continued from 2008/9, plus section between Six Bells and Howard Road | Strensall |
| Tadcaster Road* | continued from 2008/9 plus section between Tesco roundabout and the college | Dringhouses & Woodthorpe |
| Huntington Road* | Huntington School, Burn Estate area | Huntington |
| Stockton Lane, S on F* | Dean's garden centre to Cherry Tree Farm | Strensall |

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| The Village, S on F* | Stone Riggs to de Mauley Place | Strensall |
| Sandy Lane, S on F* | Barr Lane to Fircroft | Strensall |
| North Lane | adj A64 | Huntington |
| The Horseshoe* | | Micklegate |
| School Lane* | Fulford | Fulford |
| Water Lane | o/s 4 & 10, Dunnington | Derwent |
| Carr Lane* | The Ainsty to Almsford Road | Holgate |
| Ascot Road, | Wigginton | Haxby & Wigginton |
| Holly Tree Lane | Haxby | Haxby & Wigginton |
| York Road | Haxby | Haxby & Wigginton |
| The Village, Wigginton | adj Recreation Hall | Haxby & Wigginton |
| Elvington Lane | adj airfield entrance | Wheldrake |
| Holtby Lane | j/w Bad Bargain Lane | Derwent |
| Holtby Lane | bend adj Dean's nursery | Derwent |
| York city centre | Museum Street and others | Guildhall |
| Wetherby Road* | Rufforth | Rural West York |
| Scoreby Lane | adj Holly Tree House | Derwent |
| Trentholme Drive | adj nos 14, 16 | Micklegate |
| Straight Lane, Holtby* | Willow Court area | Derwent |

* work continued from 2008/9

ANNEX 2

Locations where drainage investigations and works will be considered in 2010/11:

| STREET | LOCATION | WARD |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| | | |
| All works to be prioritised in accordance with prevailing conditions and results of investigations | | |
| | | |
| Locations where work has commenced | | |
| Sandy Lane | Stockton on the Forest | Strensall |
| Huntington Road | Huntington School, Burn Estate area | Huntington |
| Ox Carr Lane / Pear Tree Lane | Strensall | Strensall |
| York Road | Haxby | Haxby & Wigginton |
| Straight Lane | Holtby | Derwent |
| Scoreby Lane | | Derwent |
| Carr Lane | Boroughbridge Road to Almsford Road | Acomb |
| Bad Bargain Lane / Holtby Lane | | Strensall / Derwent |
| Hawthorn Terrace | Red Lodge to Folk Hall, New Earswick | Huntington & New Earswick |
| | | |
| Locations on previous priority lists which have not received attention | | |
| Holgate Road | between Wilton Rise and the Fox Inn | Holgate |
| Princess Road / Southfield Road | | Strensall |
| Hauling Lane | Ship Inn to caravan park | Acaster Malbis |
| Wigginton Road | adj 74/76 and Nestle main gate | Clifton |
| Chiltern Way, Huntington | j/w North Lane | Huntington |
| Cornlands Road | Near shops | Westfield |
| | | |
| Other works | | |
| A1237 | Locate and clean catchpits | |
| Main Street Bishopthorpe | | Bishopthorpe |
| Wheldrake | Main Street, Benjy Lane and Greengales Lane areas | Wheldrake |
| Naburn | marina entrance area | Wheldrake |