

## County Council 17 July 2023

### Item 10(b) - Notice of Motion on Highways Repairs from Cllr Lord

#### Amendment by Cllr Boram

County and ~~district and borough~~ councillors across West Sussex are regularly approached by residents, parish, neighbourhood, and town, **district and borough** councils about potholes and the state of the highways locally. The ~~transparency of~~ **Priorities, intervention levels and programming are misunderstood** ~~is poor~~ leading to **some** residents believing that their roads are forgotten at the expense of other parts of the county.

The cold and wet weather of the past winter has caused huge damage to our roads which West Sussex County Council, **as with all highway authorities**, has struggled to fix in a timely manner. This has led to significant frustration amongst residents and occasional regrettable and unacceptable behaviour towards our hardworking highways officers and the Council's contractors.

Therefore, this Council:

- (1) Expresses its thanks to all officers **and contractors** who have worked diligently throughout the winter and spring to repair our roads and deal with resident frustration.
- (2) Asks residents to be mindful that the individuals on the frontline are not responsible for the **complex set of factors** ~~polices~~ that have caused the problems.
- (3) ~~Declares that it no longer has confidence in the current model for highways repairs and therefore~~ **Asks** the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to:
  - (a) **Continue to** ~~Urgently~~ review the contract, oversight and response to emergency repairs to ensure this Council is ~~better~~ able to manage winter pressures and the impacts of climate change.
  - (b) **Maintain and enhance the current approach to data sharing with councillors and residents to** ensure that there is no perception of geographical preference in the prioritisation of repairs ~~through greater transparency of data shared with councillors and residents.~~
  - (c) **Continue** ~~Improve~~ engagement with district, borough, town and parish councils on highway matters to aid knowledge sharing and transparency.
  - (d) Explore how the Council could **work** ~~fund an alternative approach to repairs and pilot this~~ with district, borough, town and parish councils who are willing to work together on **alternative practical value for money approaches which meet legislative requirements and our statutory responsibilities across the whole of the county** ~~this.~~