**WBCIR:19737 - Council spending on road repairs**

For further information, please refer to the Wokingham Highways Maintenance Management Plan (HMMP), which is available on the Wokingham Borough website at:

[Highways Maintenance Management Plan](https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/roads/road-maintenance/highways-maintenance-management-plan)

Volume 1: Introduction & Overview of the HMMP summarises Wokingham Borough’s overall approach to highway maintenance, while Volume 2: Highway Network Maintenance, gives further details.

**1. What types of Potholes do you repair?**

As described in Volume 2, Section 8 of the Wokingham HMMP, Wokingham Borough adopts a risk based approach to all highway safety defects, including potholes. The assessment takes account of particular circumstances such as depth and surface area, the location in the carriageway and the volume of traffic.

**2. Do you repair them depending on their size?**

As described in Volume 2, Section 8 of the Wokingham HMMP, Wokingham Borough adopts a risk based approach to all highway safety defects, including potholes. The assessment takes account of particular circumstances such as depth and surface area, the location in the carriageway and the volume of traffic.

**3. How do you decide which pothole to repair first?**

As described in Volume 2, Section 8 of the Wokingham HMMP, Wokingham Borough adopts a risk based approach to all highway safety defects, including potholes. The assessment takes account of particular circumstances such as depth and surface area, the location in the carriageway and the volume of traffic.

**4. How often do you come across road issues and complaints?**

In financial year 2024-25, Wokingham Highways received 15397 customer reports of all kinds via the “Report a problem” feature of the Wokingham Borough website at: [Report a problem](https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/roads/report)

**5. Why has the process of fixing potholes changed from before? Is the way we repair them now a lot cheaper?**

Wokingham Borough employs a maintenance contractor to carry out highway maintenance on its behalf. The contractor determines the most efficient method of highway repair within the terms of the contract.

**6. How long does it take to fix a pothole? From when it's reported to when it's fixed.**

In Wokingham Borough, highway repairs are assigned a completion date and time depending on the initial risk assessment. For example, emergency repairs are carried out within 2 hours, urgent repairs are carried out within 24 hours, and other repairs are carried out within 28 days or 3 months if a road closure is required.

**7. Is repairing the road one of the Wokingham Councils main priorities?**

Details of Wokingham Borough Council’s overall priorities are available on the Wokingham Borough website at: [Community Vision and Council Plan](https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/council-and-meetings/open-data-and-transparency/community-vision-and-council-plan)

**8. How much does the Wokingham Council allocate annually for road maintenance? Is it enough? Where do these funds come from?**

In financial year 2023-24, Wokingham Borough spent £4,463,000 on planned road maintenance activities and £1,760,000 on “reactive” or ad hoc road maintenance. Values for 2024-25 are not currently available.

**9. How much does the Wokingham Council spend annually on road works specifically?**

Unfortunately, the amount spent specifically on road works cannot be split out from the total expenditure values given in question 8.

**10. Do you think it's worth spending money on potholes? Why?**

Wokingham Borough has a duty as a local highway authority under Section 41(1) of the Highways Act 1980 to maintain all public highways. Accordingly, Wokingham Borough is obliged to assess and if necessary repair all highway defects, as explained in Volume 2 of the Wokingham HMMP. Further information on the Highways Act 1980 is available from the UK Government: [Highways Act 1980](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1980/66/contents)

**11. How does the Council spending affect the council themselves?**

Unfortunately, Wokingham Highways don’t have information to answer this question.

**12. How does the Council spending on road repairs positively and negatively affect the local area in Wokingham and their citizens?**

Timely repairs ensure residents can enjoy safe trips on WBC network and keep the borough moving.

**13. How does the council measure the success of its road repair efforts?**

As described in Section 4. Highway Asset Management of Volume 2 of the Wokingham HMMP, Wokingham Borough carries out regular surveys of the overall condition of its highway network. The results of the surveys are published by the UK Department for Transport (DfT) and are available here: [Road conditions - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/road-network-size-and-condition)

**14.  How does the council ensure that its road repairs are sustainable and effective in the long term?**

Every year, Wokingham Borough benchmarks the overall performance of its highway maintenance activities in comparison with other similar local highway authorities. This is in accordance with Wokingham’s adoption of an integrated asset management approach to highway infrastructure, as recommended in the publication Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure: A Code Of Practice, available from The Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation (CIHT) here:

[Code of Practice | CIHT](https://www.ciht.org.uk/ukrlg-home/code-of-practice/)

**15. What resources and expertise does the Wokingham council have to support its road repair efforts?**

Wokingham Borough Council works alongside VolkerHighways as maintenance contractor for highway and street lighting, and WSP for professional highway services. Together, the three organisations form the Wokingham Highways Alliance.

**16. How does the council prioritize which roads and areas are in need to repair?**As described in Section 4. Highway Asset Management of Volume 2 of the Wokingham HMMP, Wokingham Borough carries out regular surveys of the overall condition of its highway network. The selection of roads to be included in annual planned road maintenance programmes is based on condition values calculated from these surveys.