

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

18 March 2014

**Question from Councillor Jon Hubbard to
Councillor John Thomson, Cabinet member for Highways and
Streetscene and Broadband**

Question

The Government has announced additional funding to support local authorities deal with the repairs needed to the road network as a result of the recent extreme weather.

Reports have indicated that such funding will be dependant on local authorities publishing on their websites how the funding is spent.

Can you tell me:

- i) What is Wiltshire's share of the additional funding
- ii) What are the plans to ensure that the required information is published as required
- iii) Can you reassure me that this money will be invested as additional funding towards repairing our road network and that there no reduction in other planned spending
- iv) Will this additional funding be passed through to local communities to direct how it is used.

See link below for full story

<http://www.publicsectorexecutive.com/Public-Sector-News/extra-140m-to-help-councils-repair-most-damaged-roads>

Response

The recent extreme weather has caused significant damage to the roads in Wiltshire. The announcement of additional funding from the Government is most welcome as substantial expenditure is already being incurred to keep our roads safe. With regard to the specific questions raised I would comment as follows:

- i) The details of the funding for individual authorities has not been announced yet, but an update will be given at the meeting should additional information become available.
- ii) When funding for weather damage has previously been provided it has been a requirement that the Council publish details of how it was used on the website, and it is anticipated that this would also be the case with the current funding.
- iii) Previous funding for weather damage could not be used to replace already allocated funding. The details of the current scheme are not known, but this is likely to be the case with this funding.
- iv) With the damage the roads have experienced through the extreme weather this year this funding will be needed to address the problems already identified. As you are aware this Council has made a commitment to significantly increase road maintenance funding over the next six years. As part of the 'Local Highways Investment Fund 2014 – 2020' the Area Boards are being invited to help identify local priorities. The additional funding means that in future years we will be able to deal with developing safety problems on the network, and also have greater discretion about resurfacing some of the more minor roads as well as the major roads. The Area Board input will be important in setting local priorities, and an item will be included on Area Board agendas shortly.