

Wiltshire Council

Full Council

16 May 2023

Item 15 – Members’ Questions

From Cllr Carole King – Westbury North

To Cllr Caroline Thomas, Cabinet Member for Transport, Street Scene, and Flooding

Question (23-04)

With WC’s extensive road network and the current state of their roads, as is the problem nationally, including the extent of potholes, has WC applied for any further grants to help with their maintenance? Specifically, have they expressed an interest in the scenario as described below, and if not, would the Council consider offering to run a future trial?

I am aware (MPA summer 22 magazine) that new research has shown that the introduction of hydrated lime (calcium hydroxide) in asphalt can extend the life of road surfaces. A long term trial on a stretch of the A38 in Devon in 2021 is being monitored by the British Lime Association alongside Devon CC and their partners Aggregate Industries and South West Highways and others who provide technical support and annual surveys.

It is hoped that these trials will prove that road maintenance and resurfacing intervals can be extended, helping LA budgets to stretch further.

“The British Lime Association is interested in hearing from other highway authorities who may be interested in running a similar trial.” (For details contact the BLA at www.britishlime.org.)

Response:

The Department for Transport (DfT) provides annual grant funding to local highway authorities for highway maintenance purposes. The amount made available is based on a formulaic approach that looks at the total length of highway and its classification. The amount made available to the Council for 2023/24 stands at £20,727m. In addition, and in recognition of the deterioration of the highway network nationally through the 2022/23 winter period, the DfT have made available an additional grant of £3,684,800m in 2023/24 to help address carriageway condition.

The trials in Devon using hydrated lime are known about and the results will be monitored. The Council through its own contracts and supply chain keeps in touch with innovations in surfacing materials at a national level and will look to use once proven.