

Department for Transport Pothole Action Fund 2017/18

In November 2016 the Department for Transport (DfT) allocated over £7.3 million to Yorkshire and Humber region to fix around 138,000 potholes or stop them from forming in the first place. This funding is over and above £83.2 million it had already committed to providing in 2017/18 to help repair our local highways.

The Council received £898k from this funding on top of its highways maintenance block allocation of £9,821 million. These allocations are calculated on a formula basis, depending on the size of the local road network in each highway authority area.

We decided to spend £330k of the £898k on preventative maintenance, including 110km² of pre-surface dressing in preparation for 2018/19 surface dressing season. This is equivalent to fixing 6,226 potholes at £53 per pothole.

The remaining £568k was spent on a variety of specialist treatments, including a carriageway slurry sealing process that can be applied to all types of asphalt, macadam, even worn concrete surfaces. This treatment seals the surface and protects against further deterioration of the carriageway. This process has been used to fill/prevent 7,412 potholes within the East Riding.

A programme using the Council's Roadmaster machine, which provides localised tarmac repairs, has been used to fill some 5,681 potholes throughout the authority.



Figure 1 Roadmaster machine at work

The remainder was spent on an 'Ultra screed' treatment, which is a versatile product that fills voids, shallow potholes and ravelled surface as well as lane joints, with a high friction finish. This has been used to treat a further 2,111 potholes.

In total the DfT's funding has enabled the authority to fix/prevent a total of 21,646 potholes, ensuring the East Riding of Yorkshire Council's roads remain safe and fit for purposes.