

BACKGROUND PAPERS - HIGHWAY SERVICE WORKS CONTRACT

POTHOLE UPDATE / INFORMATION

The existing Highway Service and Works Contract includes undertaking repairs on the carriageway such as potholes which falls under the category of reactive maintenance. When looking at the scope of services for the new Highway Service and Works Contract which commences on the 1st September 2019 reactive maintenance once again will be included.

Over a 6 year period an average of 1900 carriageway defects 'potholes' have been reported either via the public or by Merton's Highway Officers, during this period an average of 1600 of these notification have resulted in a repair being undertaken.

When assessing the defects reported, Merton aligns its inspection regime with the code of practice of well maintained highways and has adopted the investigatory levels within this specification. We are currently working towards complying with the newly released Code of Practice which has been renamed the Code of Practice for Well Managed Highway Infrastructure with an anticipated start date of October 2018.

With regards to the increase of carriageway defects that was reported during the inclement weather (Feb/March 2018), working in partnership with our existing term contractor it was identified that Merton's specified response time of 28 days became very difficult to comply with due to the volume of defects issued.

Just for information, from the 28th February for a 6 week period, Merton council received 567 reported carriageway defects. Based on our average carriageway defects that over the 6 year period (as mentioned above) this shows an increase of 250% for this 6 weeks period.

This increase in workload does not just affect the immediate period but has had additional pressure/impact on the contract in subsequent months and we are only now returning to our average workload.

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