

Council plans to double spending on roads and pavements

The council is planning to spend more money on fixing roads, paths and pavements than it has for almost a decade.

The Roads and Infrastructure Investment – Capital Delivery Priorities for 2023/24 report, will be considered by Transport and Environment Committee on Thursday. The report allocates an additional £11 million already approved in February as part of the Council's budget-setting process. The extra investment brings the total roads and infrastructure capital budget to £21.781 million.

The £11 million investment in roads will significantly increase the number of road resurfacing carried out over the next year, helping to slow deterioration and improve network condition.

These schemes have been prioritised to the areas based on the council's own agreed criteria and weighting.

As part of this, an additional 5% is applied to roads on the cycle network, promoting renewal schemes most used by cyclists. Edinburgh is the only local authority in Scotland to include such a weighting.

This spending is enhanced by a recommended increased £3 million budget for footpaths and pavements and a further £500,000 to resurface rural and residential footways which

would otherwise be low priority.

As well as resurfacing, improvements can include measures like dropped kerbs and widening footway widths where required.

Cllr Scott Arthur, Transport and Environment Convener, said: "We have listened to the concerns of residents regarding the state of our roads and footpaths. The latest injection in funding will allow us to significantly increase the number of improvement schemes to enhance the condition of our roads and pavements.

"As a living, breathing capital working within a tight budget, Edinburgh faces a challenge when it comes to maintaining the city's infrastructure, but this investment should see the situation improve. We need to get the basics right, and this intensive programme of investment is essential for a safe, usable network.

"We are listening to the public, and will resurface whole streets rather than take a piecemeal approach. In addition to this, we are trialling a state-of-the-art 'Pothole Killer' machine which will help automate repairs. We won't get footpaths and roads back to where we want them to be in one year, but this investment will help halt the decline. If this work is approved on Thursday, on Friday I shall start the work of making the case for more funding next year."

Other areas for investment are street lighting and traffic signals, for which £1.120 million is proposed for upgrades, and the city's 3,366 bridges and road structures – £0.845 million has been set aside for their maintenance, in addition to the major North Bridge refurbishment project.

An allocated £80,000 would allow the installation of dropped kerb crossings on streets where improvement projects are not already being carried out while £500,000 would go towards Local Environment Projects, allowing the delivery team to respond to local issues identified throughout the city.

Any proposed scheme on arterial routes or in the city centre will be carefully coordinated and considered by the Citywide Traffic Management Group to minimise disruption.

Read the full report, [Roads and Infrastructure Investment – Capital Delivery Priorities for 2023/24.](#)

Watch the Transport and Environment Committee [live via webcast](#) from 10am on Thursday, 20 April.



This is a manhole cover at the junction between Heriot Row and Dundas Street which The Edinburgh Reporter advised to the council through their website. This is the “repaired” version and not the damaged version. PHOTO ©The Edinburgh Reporter