

Pothole Fund Application Form



Department
for Transport

Guidance is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pothole-fund-2014-to-2015-application>

Only one application form should be completed per local highway authority.

Applicant Information

Local authority name: Solihull MBC

Bid Manager Name and position: Adrian Matthews

Name and position of officer with day to day responsibility for delivering the proposed scheme.

Contact telephone number: 0121 704 6512 **Email address:**
adrianmatthews@solihull.gov.uk

Postal address: Highway Services
Places Directorate, Council House, Solihull B91 3QB

When authorities submit a bid for funding to the Department, as part of the Government's commitment to greater openness in the public sector under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, they must also publish a version excluding any commercially sensitive information on their own website within two working days of submitting the final bid to the Department. The Department reserves the right to deem the business case as non-compliant if this is not adhered to.

Please specify the weblink where this bid will be published:

SECTION A – Your Highway

The Department would like to understand more about the highway assets that fall under your statutory duties.

We already collect data from your authority in regards to road lengths but we would like to understand more about the other assets you are responsible for. Please answer the following in your application:

A1: What is the number of bridges owned by your authority with span over 1.5 metres?
137

A2: What is the total number of street lighting columns under your authority's responsibility? 23,000

A3: What is the total number of street lighting columns under your authority's responsibility over 40 years old? 8500

A4: What is the total length of footways under the responsibility of your authority (in miles)? 737 miles (Length of Carriageway 528 miles)

A5: What is the total length of off road cycleways under the responsibility of your authority (in miles)? 45 miles

A6: Please provide a weblink to your authority's statement of how the flood recovery funding, awarded in March 2014, has/will be spent:
<http://www.solihull.gov.uk/news/ArtMID/820/ArticleID/187/Additional-funding-for-flood-damaged-roads>

SECTION B – Potholes

B1: Which of the recommendations arising from the Pothole Review Report has your authority adopted?

The report can be viewed here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/3995/pothole-review.pdf?

Please answer the following, including providing supporting information, where applicable:

| Question | Yes/No | All 'yes' answers must be supported evidence. Please append supporting information, clearly marking the question number to which the information refers. |
|---|---|--|
| A. Has your authority aligned its maintenance programme to the Government's highways maintenance funding years (i.e. 2011-2015 and 2015-2021)? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | Programmes are set out on a three year basis and reported to cabinet each year |
| B. Has your authority adopted the principle that 'prevention is better than cure' in determining the balance between structural, preventative and reactive maintenance activities in order to improve the resilience of the highway network and to minimise the occurrence of potholes in the future? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | Significant preventative programmes have been developed using micro asphalt and surface dressing which reduce the surface deterioration preventing potholes occurring and minimising travel disruption due to roadworks . |
| C. Has your authority ensured that appropriate competencies have been made available to make the right choices when designing and specifying techniques and materials for the maintenance and repair of highways? Note - these competencies can be secured through training, collaboration with neighbouring authorities or external advice. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | The West Midlands authorities regularly meet to look at new initiatives and understand best practice. Officers also attend national forums on best practice in maintaining the road network. We work in collaboration with our consultants Atkins and our term contractor Balfour Beatty to ensure good design and latest innovation. |
| D. Does your authority co-ordinate with other parties working on the highway short and long term programmes of work activities for up to four years in advance? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | Regular coordination with utilities and neighbouring authorities is undertaken to look at programming |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| | | <p>works in the most appropriate ways. Also internally with the new works team to ensure both new works and maintenance is undertaken together. This is key to our work alongside the M42 where close liaison is essential with the HA.</p> |
| <p>E. Has your authority considered the guidance provided in the ADEPT report Potholes and Repair Techniques for Local Highways and adopted as appropriate to your local circumstances?</p> | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> | <p>The contents of the report have been fully embedded in the authority's response to maintenance. A report was presented to Cabinet setting out how we achieve the set recommendations. The report author has acknowledged that Solihull meets the recommendations of the report.</p> |
| <p>F. Has your authority developed a detailed highway inspection manual and have put appropriate training in place for your Highway Inspectors?</p> | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> | <p>All highway inspectors have attended a city and guilds inspector training course and passed the assessment. Additional training is undertaken to support the knowledge of the team. A manual is being developed to support the Code of practice and give additional guidance to the inspection team and regular refresher seminars are held</p> |
| <p>G. Does your authority use technology and systems for the effective identification and management of potholes?</p> | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> | <p>Symology is used in conjunction with hand – held devices to record and order pothole repairs. This forms part of the asset management data set.</p> |
| <p>H. Does your authority have a public communications process in place that provides clarity and transparency in the policy and approach to repairing potholes? This should include a published policy and details of its implementation, including the prevention, identification, reporting, tracking and repair of potholes.</p> | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> | <p>Details are provided on the webs site setting out how to report potholes and the process and typical response times to repair the defect.</p> |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>I. Does your authority monitor public satisfaction with road, footway and cycleway condition and report annually through the National Highways and Transport Public Satisfaction Survey or their own surveys?</p> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <p>We have undertaken the NHT surveys the last three years, which has placed the authority in the top quartile of high performing highway authorities. Also satisfactions surveys are undertaken jointly with our contractor locally following scheme completion.</p> |
| <p>J. Does your authority adopt permanent repairs as the first choice when repairing potholes?</p> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <p>First time repairs are undertaken at all suitable locations, temporary repairs are only used at difficult locations requiring additional traffic management or where more substantive works are proposed.</p> |
| <p>K. Has your authority adopted dimensional definitions for potholes based on best practice as part of its maintenance policy?</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | <p>A risk assessment policy has been adopted in line with the code of practice. This is considered to be best practice as it ensures the available resources are used in the most appropriate way.</p> |

B2: Does your authority adopt any innovative methods to help repair potholes? This could include, for example, specialist pothole maintenance crews.

Yes No

If yes, please provide details as an annex as part of your bid.

The authority uses 3 Area Response Teams to deal with potholes and other minor defects, Rapid Rhino has also been used to deliver permanent pothole repairs and we are exploring jet patch, viafix and viaphalt.

B3: Does your authority use reporting tools to identify potholes in your local area including:

CTC Fill that Hole Yes No

Council's Own Web Reporting Yes No

Other Yes No

Please specify:
Call centre

B4: Does your authority regularly consult and seek feedback on its highways maintenance regime, including potholes, with key stakeholders?

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Local Member(s) of Parliament | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| District, Borough and Parish Councils | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Local Residents | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| (Including neighbourhood Forums) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Business Community | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Emergency Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

If yes, please provide details as an annex as part of your bid.

B5: Does your authority have an up-to-date vision and action plan to improve the walking environment and encourage walking?

Yes No

If yes, please provide a weblink: -

<http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Resident/Planning/appealsenforcement/planmaking/ldf/evidencebase>

B6: Please explain how you deliver your duty under NRSWA to 'co-ordinate the execution of works of all kinds', including for example permit schemes, noticing, co-ordination meetings?

Under the TMA it is the highway authority's duty to co-ordinate all works on the highway, this will ensure safety, reduce inconvenience to people using our streets and also protect the structure and any apparatus within it.

At times we are required to co-ordinate with neighbouring authorities when works go over boundaries and indeed any other relevant stakeholders e.g. Airport and NEC. Maintaining the gazetteer and ensuring it's updated and exported on a monthly basis; this ensures that all undertakers working on the highway have the latest up to date information about our network.

We currently do not operate a permit scheme. Co-ordination meetings are held every quarter.

B7: What actions does your authority take to ensure road repairs undertaken by other parties (such as utilities companies) meet the standards in the specification?

- Inspections regime
- Scoring programme
- Performance bench-marking
- Meetings
- Other (please specify) Quarterly WM HAUC meetings, coring

SECTION C – Asset Management

C1: Has your authority adopted the recommendations arising from the Asset Management Strategy Guidance published in May 2013 –

<http://www.ukroadsliasongroup.org/en/utilities/document-summary.cfm?docid=5C49F48E-1CE0-477F-933ACBFA169AF8CB> ?

Yes No

Please answer the following, including providing supporting information, where applicable.

| Question | Yes/No | All 'yes' answers must be supported evidence. Please append supporting information, clearly marking the question number to which the information refers. |
|--|---|--|
| Has your authority got an up to date asset management policy and strategy? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | If yes, please provide a weblink. The Authority have engaged Atkins the authors of the new guidance to assist in producing a revised policy and strategy in line with the new guidelines. |
| Does your authority communicate relevant information associated with asset management through engagement with your relevant stakeholders when you set requirements, make decisions and report performance? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | Twitter, Facebook, web pages. Communication plans are set out and published for all major works including maintenance schemes. Reports are presented to Cabinet member regularly. |
| Does your authority have an asset management register? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | The Authority uses Symology for all its data. This has deterioration modelling which assists in future programme development |
| Does your authority follow lifecycle planning principles which are used to review the level of funding and which will help support investment decisions including long term investment in your assets?. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | Regular reports are submitted to Cabinet setting out the funding requirements and the risks of under-funding ; currently the funding is maintaining a steady state. |

C2: As part of your last L-Pack return for Whole Government Accounting requirements for the accounting period 2012/13, can you confirm you submitted the following return:

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------|----|
| Carriageway and Footways | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No |
| Lighting | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No |
| Structures | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No |
| Street Furniture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No |

SECTION D – Efficiencies

D1: Is your authority actively engaged with securing efficiencies for highways maintenance?

Yes No

If yes, please provide additional information on what your authority has done since 2011 including what % efficiency savings (where efficiency savings are defined as delivering a similar or a better outcome at a lower cost) your authority has achieved year on year and what savings you hope to achieve by end of 2014/15.

Through joint procurement 12% has been saved on contract rates to date £280,000 has been saved with £300,000 this year (2014/15). Partnership with our term contractor is driving efficiencies in design, procurement and delivery.

D2: Is your authority exploring or has it already joined with neighbouring local highway authorities or a Highways Maintenance Alliance to achieve economies of scale?

Yes No

If yes, please provide additional information. For example the names of other authorities or the Alliance.

The authority has joined with Warwickshire CC and Coventry CC in a joint highways delivery contract. The authority also participates in the work of the West Midlands Highway Alliance

D3: Is your authority sharing its efficiency experience and/or case studies with other local highway authorities via the Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme or other good practice networks?

Yes No

If yes, please provide state where.

Officers attend the Guardian Round table forum London, on asset management, the recent surveyor forum Birmingham and the HMEP forums various locations.

SECTION E – Other

E1: Please provide details on which of the following good practice activities your authority is undertaking for its highways management activities.

Invest to save Yes No
Cross boundary collaboration Yes No

Other (please specify): (LED lighting)

E2: Do you consider your authority to be an exemplar authority in tackling potholes and undertaking highway maintenance?

Yes No

If yes, please explain why.

Through the use of deterioration modelling, programmes are developed that use various treatments on each road rather than a simple resurfacing programme. This ensures that best value can be achieved from the available funding.

If yes, would your authority be willing to share its experiences more widely with other authorities / organisations?

Yes No

National presentations have already been undertaken detailing the asset management practices being practiced in Solihull. This is considered best practice and has been shared with other interested authorities.

SECTION F: Declarations

F1. Senior Responsible Owner Declaration

As Senior Responsible Owner for Pot Hole Fund I hereby submit this request for approval to DfT on behalf of Solihull MBC and confirm that I have the necessary authority to do so.

I confirm that Solihull MBC will have all the necessary statutory powers in place to ensure the planned timescales in the application can be realised.

Name:

Adrian Matthews

Signed:



Position:

Principal Engineer