

## SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AND ROAD SAFETY FORUM

27 APRIL 2009

### Council Policy for Repairing Potholes

- Highway Services (Streetcare) are responsible for the inspection, maintenance and associated repair of potholes in the highway.
- The Council, as Highway Authority, has a duty under Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 to maintain the highway in a safe condition at all times. Potholes considered to be dangerous are made safe or repaired within 24 hours.
- The Council follows the national Code of Practice “Well Maintained Highways” guidelines for Highway Inspections, issued in July 2005. The Code of Practice defines defects as being Category 1, those requiring immediate attention because they pose an imminent hazard, and Category 2 all other defects of a less serious nature.
- Inspection frequencies are based on the national Code recommendations, dependant on the classification of the route;

Principal Roads	Monthly
Non Principal Roads	3 Monthly
Unclassified Roads	Annually
Bus Routes	6 Monthly

- We have set the trigger level for immediate repair of potholes on the MK Network at 50mm depth.
- During working hours, the Area Maintenance Officers inspect and decide if a hole is dangerous and should be repaired immediately. Outside office hours, the Duty Officer or 7/24 operational standby crew assess potholes and repair as necessary.
- There are currently 5 gangs working on repairing the backlog of potholes caused by the severe weather in January and February which is expected to take at least another 2 months to catch up.
- The budget for Highway Inspections is absorbed within the Highways Operational budget of £274k. The budget for road repairs in 2009/10 is, coincidentally, also £274k. However, Cabinet recently approved an additional £250k to help offset the emergency repair costs following the severe winter weather.
- Progress and expenditure on the backlog of potholes will be reviewed at the end of May 2009.