

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING –19TH MAY 2016

**Question to Mr M Deaville
Cabinet Support Member for Highways and Transport**

By Mr. R. Marshall

Question

“I, like many other members, am often questioned about the condition of our road network. To help me (and other members), I would like to know the following:

- Are the roads in Staffordshire in the top quartile for road condition?
 - How long has this been the case?
 - How is the assessment made?
 - Two residents in particular complain to me about the state of the pavements. In simple terms, what is our current policy for pavement repairs?”
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Reply

Good roads are important to residents, to businesses and to the county council and we have actually made huge strides in recent years, in spite of the significant financial challenges faced by local government.

Potholes are a symptom of old and worn out roads and by investing in prevention techniques like surface dressing we’ve been able to increase the overall length of roads that are categorised, by independently calibrated national road condition surveys, as being “in good condition” by around 300 miles since 2010!

The Government’s Department for Transport (DfT) annual report on road condition data confirms that Staffordshire’s busiest roads have been in the top-quartile for overall condition since 2012.

However, just like other assets roads continue to depreciate so it’s a constant challenge and there does still remain sections of network in need of resurfacing. Our crews repair around 18,000 defects of all kinds every-year. Each one, whether in the carriageway, footway or verge, is inspected and prioritised in accordance with its location, size and potential risk to public safety. Any that poses an immediate risk are dealt with as a priority, usually within 24 hours.

To be as efficient and effective as possible those defects that are not considered to be a high-risk to public safety are grouped together with similar works in the area. Currently over 50% of these repairs take place within 60-days.