

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 28th JUNE 2017

POSITION STATEMENT BY THE CABINET LEAD MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS

CONDITION OF ROADS IN LEICESTERSHIRE

Members who were here before the elections will be aware of an annual National Highways and Transport (NHT) Satisfaction survey. There are two surveys – one covering the public and the second public representatives, including members. The surveys provide a valuable and consistent source of public satisfaction information allowing us to benchmark ourselves against other authorities

The latest survey was undertaken in 2016 and a total of 106 authorities took part and included 28 authorities in the County Council comparator group. 1,497 surveys were completed in respect of Leicestershire.

Public Satisfaction Survey

The key highlights from the public survey show the County Council as:

- being the highest scoring County Council for satisfaction with road condition for the 8th time in 9 years;
- having the highest satisfaction rates regarding the condition of pavements and footpaths;
- being in the top quartile for cycle routes & facilities, public rights of way, traffic management, road safety and highways & transport services overall.

Public Representative Satisfaction Survey

- Member satisfaction with Highways and Transportation services has remained relatively high and consistent over the last three years, and remains significantly higher across all Highways and Transportation services when compared to 2013;
- Services where Member satisfaction was particularly high included street lighting, pavements and footpaths, road condition and community transport.

These are very pleasing results and are supported by the recent Department for Transport (DfT) Road Condition Benchmarking which found that:-

- No authority in England had better road condition than Leicestershire across all three road classifications in 2015/16;
- All authorities with better Principal and Non-Principal road condition in 2015/16 are unitary authorities with significantly smaller networks;
- The majority of authorities with better Unclassified road condition are also smaller unitary authorities with considerably smaller unclassified road networks.

By focussing on proactive repairs, we have reduced the number of potholes from 8,478 in 2012 to 5,220 in 2015 – a 38 per cent decrease! This performance has been achieved despite reductions in funding for highway maintenance.

The two NHT surveys also asked respondents for 3 areas of service on which it was unacceptable to reduce spending and 3 areas where it was thought acceptable to reduce spending. The results are quite interesting and revealing.

Unacceptable to reduce spending

<u>Public</u>	<u>Public Representative</u>
Roads	Roads
Winter Maintenance	Road Safety
Gullies and Drains	Gullies and Drains

Acceptable to reduce spending

<u>Public</u>	<u>Public Representative</u>
Public rights of way	Public rights of way
Cycle paths and facilities	Cycle paths and facilities
Subsidies for buses and community transport	Subsidies for buses and community transport