

**County Council Meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024****Question to Councillor David Williams  
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport****By Councillor Gillian Pardesi**

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**Question**

What do we say to our residents when they continually say that it is pointless talking about additional funding for our highways when every day we see the state of our roads is worsening and waiting for repairs far too long.

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**Reply**

It has been well publicised that decades of previous under-funding from central government for local road maintenance coupled with changing weather patterns is creating unprecedented challenges for local authorities across the UK. In Staffordshire, this winter alone we have seen a near tripling of new high-risk pothole defects arising at the same time of year when repair productivity is severely hampered by wet and cold weather. However, as we move towards the dryer and warmer months of the new road-repair season our full armoury of road repair resources will be ramped up again.

Our huge road network is vital for keeping our county connected and our residents and businesses on the move. And that is why over the next three years we will be investing an extra £50 million into fixing more roads, over and above any money we get from government.

Through this investment we will be delivering an enhanced programme of 34 new resurfacing schemes to replace sections of life-expired roads at key locations in our towns, delivering around £2.75 millions of drainage improvements, carrying out around 400 miles of pothole prevention surface treatments and over the life of the investment period also fixing around 90,000 individual potholes.

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