

Councillor Peter Black  
Chair of Scrutiny Programme Committee

**BY EMAIL**

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*Our Ref:* MT/JW  
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*Date:* 7 September 2021

Dear Councillor Black

Thank you for your letter sent to me following my attendance at the Scrutiny Programme Committee on 13th July 2021.

I hope that the Committee felt the information shared at the meeting was informative and useful.

Please find answers to the questions you posed following the meeting.

- Budget / Resources – clarify whether the backlog figure has increased or decreased in recent years, share with us the previous calculations for backlog, and, if it shows to be the case, how it has been improved.

The backlog figure is calculated from Welsh Government Surveys of road condition using average costs for various treatment types. Only a proportion of the network is scanned each year so there will always be a delay in improvement/deterioration of a couple of years within the backlog figure. For example U class roads are only surveyed on a 20% per annum basis.

The backlog figure has been calculated as follows,  
2018 £54m. (this was the 5 year figure calculated in 2017)  
2019 £54m. (this was the 5 year figure calculated in 2017 ) reassessed annual figure of £68m.  
2020 £70m  
2021 £59m

The figure of £59m shows the improvement the additional funding received since around 2018 has made. It should be noted however that the 2021 figure will be recalculated using material and works costs so is likely to rise.

In terms of budgets figures have been reported annually in the highways FPR7 report. Core funding has remained the same however additional funding both from the insurance fund, as a result of commissioning has allowed the stabilisation of the network and the additional funding from Welsh Government has allowed a small improvement in condition. It is essential the additional funding received as a result of the commission review is continued to allow the highway to remain in a steady state.

- Highway Drainage - placing information on the Council website on the maintenance rota for gully clearing.

We do not set a programme dates for this work as the level of interference from reactive flooding work would constantly require amendments and missed targets. We are looking to publish progress by ward. To do this a review of all 40,000 drainage assets is underway to check priorities prior to confirming the programme.

- Street Works Coordination – raising with appropriate representatives (e.g. Highways Authority and Utilities Committee) how they can improve visibility on site so that it is clear to the public who is responsible for the works and purpose / duration etc.

Statutory requirements are already being met however discussions are ongoing with all utilities to emphasise the promoter of each works. Streetworks Officers have been issued with laminated signs with company identifiers and will ensure there is evidence of who is responsible for the works on each site they visit. Any works not clearly identified can be reported to [streetworks@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:streetworks@swansea.gov.uk).

- Street Works Coordination – providing more information on the powers that the Council has over companies carrying out such street works, including the ability to impose fines, with indication of how much has been collected by the Council in recent year

In 2019/20 Street works fees were £18k, coring of reinstatements gave a return of £70k, random sample failures £80k and £70k in other defects, approximately £240k in charges. 2020/21 figures have not been finalised but are in the region of £23k, £16k, £75k, £181k for an approximate total of £295k

Please feel free to contact me should you need any further clarification.

Yours sincerely



**Y Cyngorydd / Councillor Mark Thomas**  
**Aelod Y Cabinet Dros Gwella'r Amgylchedd a Rheoli Isadeiledd/**  
**Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management**