

State of Roads in Wales



Cardiff Council Response – 27th April 2018

Q1: The current condition of roads in Wales and whether the approach to funding and delivery of maintenance programmes for the local road, trunk road and motorway network in Wales is effective, managed so as to minimise disruption to road users, and provides value for money;

- Current NAFW funding allocations to Councils for maintenance of the local road network is set on an annual basis. If longer term funding allocations were adopted they could provide:
 - Greater certainty and allow Councils to establish longer term contracts with suppliers
 - Secure more beneficial rates from suppliers
 - Plan more effectively for the future
 - Create longer term investment profiles and work schedules.
- Whilst initiatives such as LGBI (2012-14) and Local Authority Road Refurbishment Fund (2018) are greatly appreciated and the additional funding very useful these increased funding commitments could be smoothed out over the longer term which will help facilitate the above. Rapid increases in funding create resource pressure on teams developing the maintenance schedules and contractors delivering the works.

Q2: Whether major enhancement projects on the local road, trunk road and motorway network are prioritised, funded, planned and delivered effectively, and provide value for money. Relevant issues include the implementation of early contractor involvement approach and the opportunities offered by the WG mutual investment model.

Q3: Whether Wales is adopting a sustainable approach to the maintenance and enhancement of its road network in the context of key legislation such as the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.

- A whole life cost approach to maintaining the local road network is adopted by the Council. i.e. An engineering assessment is undertaken on the entire network in order to base scheme selection on condition, a suite of maintenance techniques have been adopted in order to maximise investment (including preventative surface treatments, resurfacing and reconstruction) which support some of the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015. In addition, active travel is a consideration in the scheme development and selection process.