

## **Notice of Motion Submitted by Councillor R Menlove to Council on 24 February 2011**

### **Background**

The Council is again responding to the challenge of severe winter weather and our communities have benefited from the efforts to keep our roads and footways open and safe for all travellers.

Severe winter freeze-thaw conditions have manifestly damaged our road surfaces and early indications are that the damage will be very significant by the end of this winter unless steps are taken to arrest deterioration immediately. Whilst it is expected that during winter months the number of defects will increase, the current levels of potholes, an eight fold increase in January, and extent of carriageway deterioration is far beyond the resources available for road maintenance.

Following last year's severe winter extra central government funding of £860,000 was made available for road repairs. Most of this money was invested in permanent repairs rather than filling pot holes.

Although the true picture of the damage is still unfolding and the position will continue to change over the coming weeks, the Council's Engineers have been assessing the types and locations of damage to the network and already know the location of carriageway defects and areas where we can usefully intervene with permanent reinstatement of road surfaces to stop further deterioration.

### **Motion**

**That Council endorses the following actions:**

- **immediate investment of up to a further £500,000 in reactive maintenance gangs to clear any back log of defects and keep our roads open and safe – this will be managed as part of the Council's overall financial position, despite the significant pressures on general balances at the present time**
- **capital investment is made in the road network across the Borough to ease a strained situation and stop further deterioration in key areas in the future – this will be prioritised, in the planning of the spending of the Local Transport Plan allocation for 2011/12; and**
- **a submission will be made to central government to request significant financial support, at least to the level of last year's winter impact grant, given the evident major damage to road surfaces and the challenges of meeting the required expenditure from the Council's resources**