



EXECUTIVE 11th May 2023

Report Title	Road Maintenance in North Northamptonshire – Petition Referral from Full Council
Report Author	George Candler, Executive Director for Place and Economy
Lead Member	Cllr Graham Lawman, Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets

Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number/s for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972	

List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To ask the Executive to consider a Public Petition submitted to Full Council at its meeting on 30th March 2023 under Part 2 - Public Participation and Rights of the Council's Constitution, and subsequently referred to Executive without Full Council comment or recommendation.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The petition, entitled "North Northamptonshire Council – Fix the Potholes" requested that signatories respond to a short survey set up by North Northamptonshire Labour Councillors, with the evidence received to be collated and presented to North Northamptonshire Council with a call for action to be taken to fix roads and highways of defects.
- 2.2 The exact wording of the petition submitted to Full Council at its meeting on 30th March is set out below:

“North Northamptonshire Council awarded Keir a 7-year £30 million contract in September 2022 to maintain the roads in the North Northants area, to deliver what they call its “Community Enhancement Plan”.

Sadly our roads within NNC are deteriorating before our very eyes and are in a shocking state of repair. Huge potholes are everywhere, and new ones are appearing daily. They are causing hazards to drivers who are having to navigate roads to avoid the potholes, to prevent damage to their cars. This is despite an extra £1.5m which was spent in 2022 to improve the roads after a budget underspend.

North Northamptonshire Labour Councillors want to hear from you - if you have potholes in your road or street. We have set up a short survey and will be collating the evidence to present to North Northamptonshire Council to call for action to be taken to fix our roads and highways.”

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. It is recommended that the Executive:
 - i) Consider the “North Northamptonshire Council – Fix the Potholes” Public Petition submitted to Full Council on 30th March 2023 and subsequently referred to the Executive without comment or recommendation
- 3.2. Reason for Recommendation: To comply with the provisions of the Petition Scheme that forms an appendix to Part 2 - Public Participation and Rights of the Council’s Constitution.
- 3.3. Alternative Options Considered: The Executive could opt not to consider the petition referred to them by Full Council, however this would not fulfil the requirements of the Council’s own Petition Scheme referred to at paragraph 3.2 and could result in the petition owner writing to the Monitoring Officer should they feel that the Council had not dealt with the petition properly as is provisioned for within the Petition Scheme.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 The petition referred to in paragraph 1.1 is hosted at Change.org (link in section 8 – Background Papers) and is entitled “North Northamptonshire Council – Fix the Potholes”.
- 4.2 The detail of the petition calls for signatories to respond to a short survey set up by North Northamptonshire Labour Councillors, with the evidence received to be collated and presented to North Northamptonshire Council with a call for action to be taken to fix roads and highways of defects.

- 4.3 As of 27th April 2023, the petition remains live and has attracted a total of 2,082 signatures.
- 4.4 The petition was introduced at the meeting of Full Council on 30th March by Councillor Alison Dalziel who highlighted public concern regarding the state of the roads within the North Northamptonshire area and suggested that an action plan needed to be developed, working with the Council's appointed contractor, together with further investment to ensure there was a co-ordinated and effective approach to addressing the increasing problem of potholes on local roads.
- 4.5 Following a discussion of the issues raised by the petition, a resolution to forward the Public Petition to the Executive without Full Council comment or recommendation was approved.
- 4.6 The Council's Petition Scheme sets out the procedure for debating petitions received, it specifies that Full Council cannot make decisions where the subject matter of the petition falls to the Executive to decide. As this is an Executive function it has been referred to the Executive.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1. The Executive has been requested to consider the petition by Full Council without comment or recommendation and as such is free to take whatever further action(s) it deems fit in regard to the subject matter.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1. The outcome of the Executive's petition consideration will be published in the Record of Decisions for this meeting.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1. Resources, Financial and Transformation

- 7.1.1 There are no resources or financial implications arising from the current recommendation, there may, however, be future implications dependent on the Executive's chosen course of action in relation to the petition.

7.2. Legal and Governance

- 7.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from the current recommendation, there may, however, be future implications dependent on the Executive's chosen course of action in relation to the petition.

7.3. Relevant Policies and Plans

7.3.1. Consideration of the petition as referred by Full Council is in line with Part 2 - Public Participation and Rights of the Council's Constitution.

7.4. Risk

7.4.1 There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

7.5. Consultation

7.5.1. Public consideration has formed part of the submission of the Public Petition prior to its consideration by Full Council on 30th March and onward referral to the Executive.

7.6. Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel

7.6.1. This report has not been considered by an Executive Advisory Panel.

7.7. Consideration by Scrutiny

7.7.1. This report has not been considered by Scrutiny.

7.7.2. The Executive could choose to refer the subject matter of the report to Scrutiny for further consideration.

7.8. Equality Implications

7.8.1. There are no equality implications arising from the recommendation.

7.9. Climate and Environment Impact

7.9.1. There are no climate or environmental implications arising from the recommendation.

7.10. Community Impact

7.10.1. There are no community impact implications arising from the recommendation.

7.11. **Crime and Disorder Impact**

7.11.1. There are no crime and disorder impact implications arising from the recommendation.

8. **Background Papers**

8.1. [Petition · North Northamptonshire Council - Fix the Pot Holes · Change.org](#)