

Pothole Fund Statement

In the 2016 Budget statement, the Government announced the creation of a Pothole Action Fund to help repair damage to the local road network. The Pothole Action Fund gave local authorities in England £50 million a year, over the next 5 years, to help them tackle potholes. Funding available has been calculated according to the size of the local road network in the area. The allocation awarded to Northumberland in the financial year 2016/17 was £1.111 million. This additional funding was specifically to be used to permanently fix potholes or prevent them from forming in the first place.

How the funding has been used in Northumberland

The funding was distributed across all four service areas within Northumberland and used to complement the budgets made available by the Council for planned maintenance work on highway assets. This funding supplemented the £18.654 million made available by the Council for highway maintenance. The budget available has purposefully been used to carry out planned works that serve to reduce the amount of potholes forming and preventing bigger more costly problems occurring at a later date.

What we have achieved

The funding available has meant we have achieved the following results using various proven repair methods;

- 6,000 pothole repairs by dedicated repair units to undertake small scale repairs..
- 2,500m² of permanent patching repairs to localised areas. Ridding approximately 7,500 potholes and instilling added resilience to the roads treated..
- 12,000 potholes permanently repaired using “hotbox” units. These vehicles are used to store and lay bitumen mixtures. They prove to be highly effective when transporting to remote areas and serve to maintaining road materials at the correct temperature allowing quality repairs to be achieved..

In summary, from the figures provided, we have permanently repaired a total of approximately 25,500 potholes