

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 8 OCTOBER 2020**

**Question to David Williams  
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport**

**By Susan Woodward**

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**Question**

I have a question from Steve in Burntwood. He wants me to ask - "When white paint is put around a pothole on a footpath trip hazard of broken slabs, does it mean that it will be repaired within the next two or three years?". What can I tell Steve?"

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**Reply**

The condition of roads and pavements, together with the speed and quality of repairs remains a top issue locally and nationally. This has been partially dealt with through the £5m/year investment made by the Council since 2017 to reduce the backlog of defects and the recent additional in-year investment of £14.284m made by Central Government. In the coming months Cabinet will also be considering the medium and long-term funding needs of our highway assets.

All highway defects, including broken paving slabs, are identified from a combination of our own routine safety inspections or customer defect reports. And repairs are prioritised in accordance with the level of risk they present to public safety or property damage.

The latest performance monitoring shows that despite the recent difficult weather conditions:

- over 90% of the most urgent emergency and category 1 defects have been repaired within 24-hours; and
- 92% of other high-risk category 2 defects have been repaired within 7-days.

Lower risk defects do of course take longer, but local Members also have the discretion of using their local Member funding or other funding contributions to accelerate the speed of repairs where necessary.

The use of spray markings does not have any bearing on the level of urgency or timescale of the repair. They are just used in some occasions to help identify the location or show the extent and quantify the amount of work for planning purposes.