

Cabinet Member for City Services

8th April 2019

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for City Services – Councillor P Hetherton

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

Ward(s) affected:

Earlsdon

Title: Petition – The Firs Cul-de-sac, Resurfacing of Pavements

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

This report responds to a petition containing 14 signatures which was submitted to Coventry City Council. The petition requests that the Council resurfaces the pavements at The Firs cul-de-sac.

In accordance with the City Council's procedure for dealing with petitions, those relating to highway maintenance are heard by the Cabinet Member for City Services. The Cabinet Member has considered this petition prior to the meeting and in response to the request made, requested that the petition was dealt with by letter (determination letter), rather than a formal report being submitted to a meeting, to be able to deal with the matter more efficiently.

The determination letter advised of the investigations undertaken, the action proposed and approved in response to the issues raised. On receipt of the determination letter the petitioner advised they did not wish the petition to be progressed by letter and wanted the issue to be considered at a Cabinet Member for City Services meeting.

The cost of carrying out highways maintenance, is funded from the Highways Maintenance and Investment Capital Programme budget.

Recommendations:

Cabinet Member for City Services is recommended to:

- 1) Note the petitioners concerns
- 2) Endorse that the actions confirmed by determination letter to the petition spokesperson. (as detailed in point 1 of the determination letter set out in Appendix B to the report)

List of Appendices included:

Appendix A – Location Plan
Appendix B – Determination letter

Background Papers

None

Other useful documents:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Petition – The Firs Cul-de-sac, Resurfacing of Pavements

1. Context (or background)

1.1 A petition of 14 signatures has been received requesting that the Council resurfaces the pavements at The Firs cul-de-sac. The petition is supported by Councillor Taylor.

1.2 The petition advises:

The pavements are dangerous and unsightly, and in a much poorer condition than many in the area, that have recently been refurbished. Residents have requested this over the last few years, but only patching work has been carried out.

1.3 The Firs cul-de-sac is a small no through road and the pavements provide local property access serving 8 properties. There is low pedestrian usage as there are no linking routes, either pedestrian or vehicular via this road. It is subject to parking restrictions by way of double and single yellow lines. A location plan is shown in Appendix A to the report.

1.4 In accordance with the City Council's procedure for dealing with petitions, those relating to highway maintenance issues are heard by the Cabinet Member for City Services. The Cabinet Member considered the petition prior to this meeting and in response requested that the issue was dealt with by determination letter rather than a formal report being submitted to a meeting, to be able to deal with the matter more efficiently. On receipt of the determination letter the petitioner advised they did not wish the petition to be progressed by letter and wanted the issue to be considered at a Cabinet Member for City Services meeting.

1.5 Records show that the last annual programmed safety inspection took place on the 17th July 2018 at which time only 2 minor defects were identified which required attention and repair.

1.6 Following receipt of the petition an engineer made a separate visit (25th September 2018) to make an assessment of the construction and overall condition of the pavements. It was noted that the pavements are 1 metre in width restricted to less at various locations by overhanging vegetation from the private properties. The pavements are predominately tarmac with some recent reinstatements. The pavements are somewhat aged and although not aesthetically pleasing at the time of inspection there were no intervention level defects identified.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1 Following the engineer's assessment, and given the current condition and usage the recommended treatment would be reconstruction of the pavements.

2.2 The recommended proposals regarding the issues raised have already been approved and are detailed in the determination letter (set out in Appendix B to the report)

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 No consultation has been undertaken.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 Future capital maintenance programmes and proposed treatments to carriageways and pavements are established on a 'worst first' basis across all road categories. The decision for inclusion in any year's programme will be taken by Cabinet at their meeting in March of any given financial year. It will be dependent on the level of funding that is made available for Capital Highway maintenance in that year and will further depend on the condition of the carriageway or pavement when compared to other similar roads citywide. Therefore, the actual scheduling of the works is based on priority of the scheme and funds available.

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Corporate Services

5.1 Financial implications

Undertaking the reconstruction of the pavements would be funded from any allocated Highways Capital Footway repair budget and is currently valued at approximately £13,000

5.2 Legal implications

Under section 41(1) of the Highways Act 1980, the Council has a duty to maintain those adopted highways that it is responsible for to a standard where they are reasonably passible to ordinary traffic. The scope of the duty at S.41(1) Highways Act 1980 is based on an objective standard and depends on the level of use of the highway in question.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

Highway Maintenance is part of Coventry City Council's vision for better pavements and roads which is a key objective. Completing this work would contribute to this objective.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

Financial risks are managed through regular monitoring meetings with the budget holder and the capital finance team. Risk assessments are carried out as part of the design process to ensure that risks are designed out and that construction takes place by approved contractors in a safe way.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

The work would be delivered using existing resources.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

No specific equalities impact assessment has been carried out.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

Positive impacts of carrying out Highway Maintenance schemes are to improve the road/pavement surface for driving or walking on.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None specifically but all road users of The Firs would benefit from the improvement to the pavement surface.

Report author(s)

Name and job title:

Tracy Cowley
Highways Technical Services Manager

Directorate:

Place

Tel and email contact:

Tel: 024 7683 2746

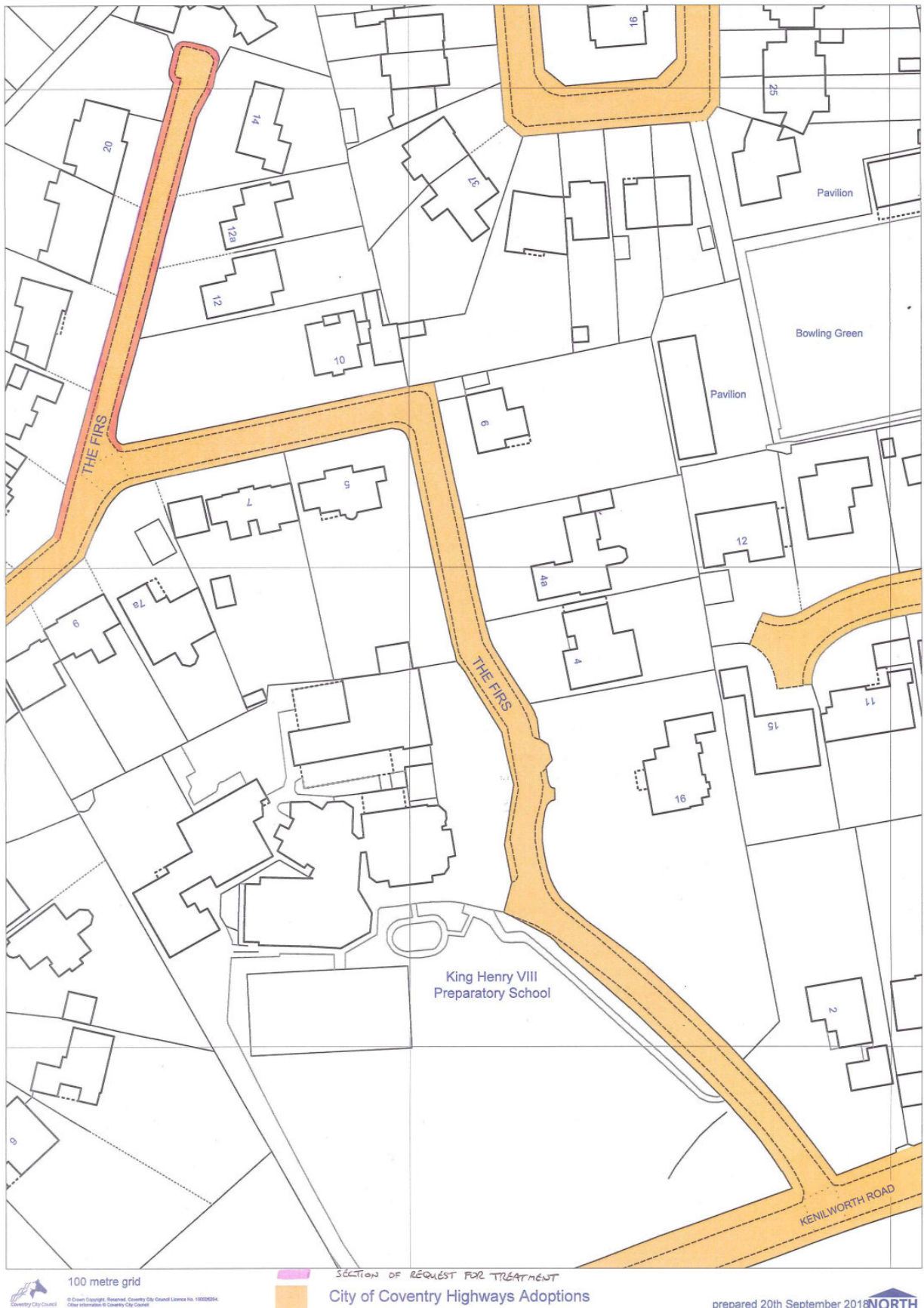
Email: tracy.cowley@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person

| Contributor/approver name | Title | Directorate or organisation | Date doc sent out | Date response received or approved |
|---|--|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Contributors: | | | | |
| Colin Knight | Director (Transportation and Highways) | Place | 22/1/19 | 22/1/19 |
| Neil Cowper | Head of Highways | Place | 22/1/19 | 28/1/19 |
| Michelle Salmon | Governance Services Officer | Place | 22/1/19 | 18/3/19 |
| Names of approvers: (officers and members) | | | | |
| Graham Clark | Lead Accountant | Place | 22/1/19 | 22/1/19 |
| Rob Parkes | Team Leader Legal Services | Place | 22/1/19 | 05/2/19 |
| Councillor P Hetherton | Cabinet Member for City Services | - | 25/3/19 | 25/3/19 |

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Appendix A – Location plan



Appendix B – Copy of text of determination letter

Re: Petition submitted on: 10 September 2018

Subject matter: Request for pavements to be resurfaced.

I am writing to you with regard to the above petition and your concerns *'that the pavements in the cul-de-sac area of the Firs are dangerous and unsightly and in much poorer condition than many in the area, that have recently been refurbished'*. The matter was discussed with Councillor Innes, Cabinet Member for City Services, who has requested that this be dealt with by way of letter rather than a formal report being submitted to a future meeting so that this can be dealt with more quickly.

Request for resurfacing of pavements

1. The City Council has made an assessment of the condition of the pavements along the cul-de-sac area of the Firs. We are proposing and would recommend that this section be held as a site on Coventry City Council's forward programme list and their condition will continue to be monitored and scored against all other similar sites citywide. If a priority score is reached it will be included in a future capital funded improvement programme, budget permitting. This is a consistent approach that is taken to the prioritisation of footway schemes across the City. Although we are unable to give a specific timeline for these improvements it does guarantee that your request is considered fairly against the wider needs and maintenance requirements of other pavements across the City.

I hope this information explains fully the outcomes of the investigations we have undertaken.