

Motion in the names of **COUNCILLORS; A Arif, Bayley, Boles, Cummins, Farooq, Fitzgerald, Frith, Gold, Green, Grimshaw, Haroon, Hayes, Hook, Ibrahim, McGill, Morris, Moss, O'Brien, Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, Rafiq, Rahimov, Rizvi, Rubinstein, Ryder, L Smith, Southworth, Staples-Jones, Tariq, Thorpe, Walmsley**

## **Take Back Control of Our Highways**

This Council notes that:

Bury contains 660km of Highways and 1300km of Pavements.

Chronic underfunding during the 14 years of Conservative Government has left Councils like ours with significant backlogs in maintenance, with a nearly £17 billion backlog nationally.

Despite the historic underfunding, Bury's Labour Council has invested an additional £30m over the past decade into road repairs and resurfacing, and welcomes the additional money announced by the Labour Government and Combined Authority on top of this.

Alongside the challenges around funding, we also face problems with Utility companies digging up newly resurfaced highways, inadequately repairing our highways and pavements following works, inconsiderately setting up roadworks and causing unnecessary congestion on our roads.

Further to this, that the current standard for repairs following works by utility companies is often inadequate and frequently results in the rapid deterioration of the highway or pavement.

The result of this is the public having to pick up the costs for the failings of private utility companies, meaning money must be spent on repairing their damages rather than improving the highways for residents.

Finally, on several occasions, local projects have faced delays and additional costs due to a lack of accurate information from utility companies and an unwillingness to work in partnership to resolve such issues.

This Council resolves to:

Welcome the additional money for our roads and pavements and continue calling for more to address the £17 billion backlog.

Support the introduction of a "lane rental scheme" across Bury and Greater

Manchester, to hold utility companies to a higher standard and reduce unnecessary disruption.

Write to the Government calling for the introduction of legislation that requires utility companies to carry out full carriageway reinstatement of local highways after the completion of works.

Work with partner local authorities and the GMCA to call on the Government to make utility companies accountable for when their failures delay and add extra costs to growth and regeneration projects.