

Department for Transport Severe Weather Recovery Fund support to repair Somerset's roads

The Severe Weather Recovery Scheme was set up by the DfT to provide support to local authorities in England that incurred recovery costs as a result of flooding caused by the east coast tidal surge on 5 and 6 December 2013 and/or severe weather up to 7 February 2014.

The scheme covers 2 elements: supporting communities and repairing local highway infrastructure. This funding is in addition to the Bellwin scheme, insurance and the existing central and local government obligations and programmes.

Somerset's share of the funding was **12,335,841**. This funding comprises **£4,526,914** capital and **£7,808,927** revenue grants.

This grant was one of the highest amounts allocated to a highways authority in the UK, reflecting the severe nature of the flooding that affected the entire highway network managed by Somerset County Council (SCC).

Somerset County Council shared the view of the DfT that the funding should be used for permanent repairs that maximise benefits to road users over the longer term. While the Somerset Levels were severely affected the damage to the highway network was county wide on all road classes and if left untreated would result in significant increased future costs in maintenance and defect repairs.

The view of Somerset County Council was that we should seek to build on the work carried out in previous DfT funded programmes and continue to address areas of carriageway that were historically prone to outbreaks of potholes and other defects after cold weather events. This approach required a comprehensive assessment of the network and an in-depth knowledge of the condition and history of the carriageway asset.

A range of approaches were used to address the winter and flooding damage to the Highway Network based on the knowledge in Somerset County Council's possession:

	Scheme Selection Criteria
Structures	Needs based, based on damage assessments
Surface Dressing	Resealing the road for future resilience where only very minor patching is required. Sites identified from PMS, SCANNER and SCRIM data.
Patching *	Targeting pothole prevention. Using "Somerset's worst potholed roads" report. And addressing current potholes using MPots and Gmis patching identified by Inspectors and Superintendents.
Surfacing *	Needs based, based on worst first on a hierarchical basis with due regard to levels and moors flood diversion route.
Drainage	Targeting sites identified as a result of recent flooding and tagging of gullies
Footways	Needs based, with emphasis on sites damaged by recent flooding.
Reactive Deep Clean *	Needs based. To include jetting, gully emptying, grips, outfalls and verge works to manage water flow.
Embankments *	Stabilisation and reconstruction. Gabion works and tree planting.
Rights of Way	Repairs to SCC assets.

* will include road edge damage repairs

Any additional temporary project staff will be paid for from these grants.

Somerset County Council wishes to express its appreciation of the assistance the additional Government funding has provided in dealing with the effects of the winter of 2013/14 on its highway network and the benefit it has given to the residents, businesses and visitors to the county.