

## **Policy for defect maintenance to roads and pavements**

The council has a responsibility under the Highways Act to maintain its roads in a safe condition. This does not mean that it is required to repair every defect of which it is aware, but that it must carry out regular inspections and must have in place a clear maintenance policy. The policy used by this council is based on 'Delivering Best Value in Highway Maintenance', a code of practice for maintenance management.

### **Inspection**

Walked routine safety inspections are carried to all roads in the borough

Very heavily used (town centres)	12 times per year
Heavily used (other shopping areas, schools, hospitals etc)	4 times per year
Frequently used (principal roads)	2 times per year
Other (residential roads)	1 per year
Ad-hoc inspections of defects notified by members of the public	24 hours

### **Intervention levels**

To ensure that budgets are contained within their allocation, it is necessary to objectively assess the severity, nature and location of defects to determine if repairs are necessary. Defects will only be repaired if they are regarded as hazardous or serious, and in order that consistent standards are adopted throughout the borough, clearly defined categories known as '**intervention levels**' are set.

### **Footway**

Very heavily used (town centres)	15 mm trip / rocker
Heavily used (shopping areas, schools, hospitals etc.)	20 mm trip / rocker
Frequently used (principal roads)	25 mm trip / rocker
Other (residential roads)	25 mm trip / rocker

### **Carriageway**

Areas where potholes may be particularly hazardous such as crossings, junctions and in or adjacent to the kerb	40 mm pothole
Very heavily used (town centres)	50 mm pothole
Heavily used (shopping areas, schools, hospitals etc.)	50 mm pothole
Frequently used (principal roads)	50 mm pothole
Other (residential roads)	75 mm pothole

### **Priorities**

When a works instruction is raised the priority for repair allocated will depend on the severity, nature and location of the defect as follows:

#### **Priority**

24 (within 24 hours)  
01 (within 1 week)  
04 (within 4 weeks)

#### **Severity of defect**

hazardous defects  
serious defects  
exceeds intervention level