

Additional Maintenance Funding 2023/24 and 2024/25 – Network North

The Prime Minister’s Network North announcement on 4 October 2023 included a commitment to an additional £8.3 billion for local highway maintenance from 2023/24 -2033/34.

At the end of November 2023 Swindon Borough Council received an additional £441,000 of funding to be allocated within the 2023/24 financial year from the Road Resurfacing Fund for local highways maintenance, particularly for the resurfacing of carriageways, cycleways, and footways to prevent potholes and other road defects from occurring. A further £441,000 is to be received for the 2024/25 financial year.

The combined additional funding of £882,000 has been allocated to four additional carriageway maintenance schemes (with a reserve).

The following table provides details:

Scheme	Extent	Area (m2)
A4198 Thamesdown Drive	Cricklade Road to Elstree Way SW bound	3000
A4311 Cricklade Road	Thamesdown Drive to Groundwell (S bound)	3500
B4005 New Road, Chiseldon	A346 to Baldwin Close	4550
Great Western Hospital	Access Roads	4550
B4289 Westcott Place (Reserve scheme)	Full length	3750

Streetworks

Under Streetworks legislation the highway asset can be protected from being dug up following substantial works.

Section 58 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 is a legal notice which is served on all 'statutory undertakers' who carry out work across Swindon Borough. This restriction allows local authorities to protect sections of the highway from certain works, following substantial road works (e.g. resurfacing or reconstruction). The Council provides advance notice of these restrictions, so that statutory undertakers (utility companies, private contractors or developers) can arrange to conduct their works in advance of the restriction coming into force. This process promotes better works planning and co-ordination, helps minimise disruption and congestion caused by works to road users, and also helps to prolong the life of the asset.

The restrictions can last up to five years following the completion of the works. Emergency works such as gas escapes, burst water mains or loss of electricity service are exempt from the restriction.

In October 2021 Swindon Council introduced its permit scheme which is designed to provide a way for the Authority to manage street and road works on the public highway, to improve its ability to minimise disruption to members of the public and road users.

When someone wants to carry out works on Swindon’s road network they need to apply for a permit. A warning is flagged every time someone wishes to carry out works on a protected part of the network – this prompts a discussion before any permit is approved. The Protected network can be viewed via [one.network](#) which is a platform used to plan, monitor and communicate traffic disruptions. Every six months Swindon Council and utility companies meet as part of a co-ordination Highway Authorities and Utilities Committee (HAUC), which allows for forward programs of work to be shared.

Funding

	Total DfT Capital Grant funding	Total Capital investment in network maintenance	Total revenue spend on maintenance of network
2019/20	£3,269,000	£3,269,000	
2020/21	£3,269,000	£3,269,000	
2021/22	£4,050,000	£4,050,000	
2022/23	£4,050,000	£4,050,000	
2023/24	£5,112,600	£5,112,600	
2024/25	£4,491,000	£4,491,000	