

## EFFECTS OF EXTREME WEATHER ON THE HIGHWAY SERVICE

### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Several months of exceptionally wet weather have placed great demands on the Highway Service.

### 2 LEVEL OF WORKS ORDERING

One measure of the level of activity on highway repairs is to look at the number of Work Instruction Forms (WIF). These are generated at the Rayleigh Area Office usually following requests from members and residents. These are passed in a paperless system to our term contractor Alfred McAlpine for action.

The levels of rainfall since the autumn have been, in many places, the highest recorded. The ground has been saturated and water runs directly off farmland and finds its way in many situations into the highway drainage system. Consequent flooding has accelerated the appearance of potholes. Subsequent freezing and, on parts of the network, precautionary salting have resulted in further damage.

#### **Work Instruction Forms Issued:**

October 1999 – February 2000	283
October 2000 – February 2001	1622

This massive increase in activity is being dealt with by the same number of staff.

It is likely that the volume of work at present, together with the fact that the team is operating below strength may mean that the service to members suffers, despite the efforts being made by Essex County Council and Alfred McAlpine staff.

### 3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is proposed that this Committee **RESOLVES**

That the effect of the extreme weather on the highways and transportation services be noted. (Area Highways)

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**Background Papers**

None

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