

## **POTHoles & WEATHER DAMAGED ROADS**

To: **Ashford Joint Transportation Board, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

Main Portfolio Area: **KCC – Growth, Environment & Transport**

By: **Highway Manager, East Kent**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

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**Summary:** **This report gives an update on the progress of pothole repairs and the repairs to weather damaged roads.**

### **For Information**

#### **1.0 Background**

1.1 During one of the wettest winters on record, Kent suffered over 225% of the average rainfall. Many roads remained under water for long periods, whilst others had water flowing from neighbouring fields. The number of potholes on the network increased and there was a general deterioration in the state of the carriageway.

1.2 Funding for repairs was allocated from Kent County Council (KCC) and additional funding was bid for from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

#### **2.0 Funding**

2.1 In January, KCC allocated an additional £3 million for pothole repairs. This was split with £2.5 million capital and £500 thousand revenue. Ashford Borough has 13% of the road network of Kent, the Ashford Operations team was allocated £351,772.78 extra capital (14% of the funding). The revenue budget was increased by £65 thousand.

2.2 Whilst there were no snow or ice problems over the winter, due to increased salting in April 2013 and the number of runs throughout the winter of 2013/14, there was no money available from the winter budget to be used for carriageway repairs.

2.3 In March, the Government announced additional funding for weather damaged roads. £100m was shared across all Local Authorities based on overall road length and bids were made for a further £70m based on the length of the road network weather damaged in each county. Kent was awarded £8.6m, split across revenue and capital. The Ashford Highway Operations team have been given £100,000.00 from the revenue pot. £5.2m capital is then being spent across the county for resurfacing weather damaged roads.

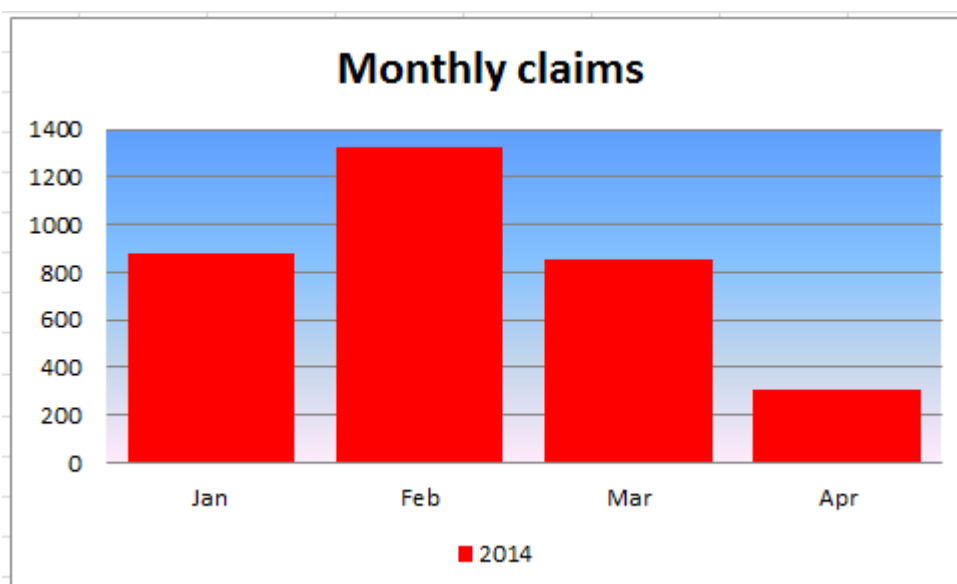
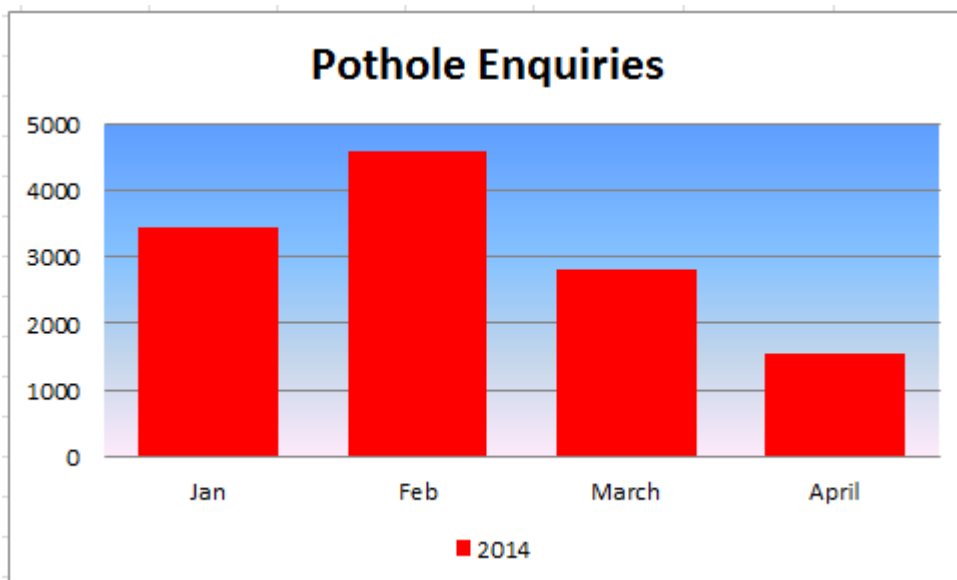
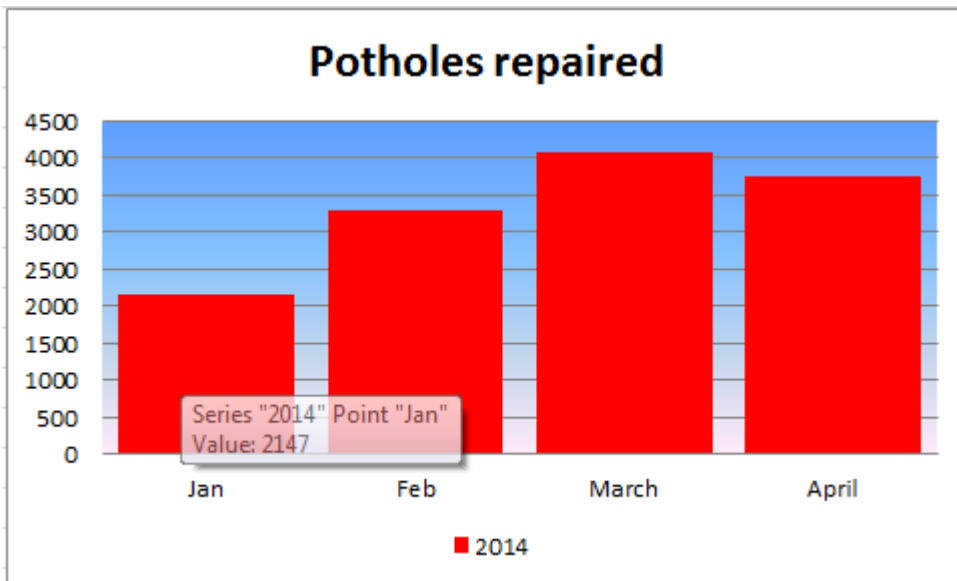
2.4 During May, KCC submitted a bid to receive additional funding from a government pot of £168 million. We are awaiting the results of that bid.

#### **3.0 Progress**

3.1 To cope with increased work load, additional resource from Kent SMEs was employed, almost doubling gangs working in the county. This enabled all other works to continue as normal. The additional revenue funding was committed and spent by the end of March. The additional £2.5 million capital was all committed by the end of March with all works completed by the end of May.

3.2 The weather damage work across the county included individual pot hole repairs, larger areas of patching and also some areas were resurfaced as necessary. In Ashford Borough, the additional funding was used to resurface a section of A28 Tenterden.

3.3 Between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014; 1,686 potholes were repaired and £2,343,078.00 worth of heavy patching, was completed in Ashford. In addition c£110,000.00 was spent resurfacing the A28 Tenterden. The graphs below show the countywide picture for pothole repairs, pothole enquiries, and claim forms sent out;



## **4.0 The future**

4.1 Whilst the additional funding has improved the state of the network, there are still roads across the county requiring repair. In addition to the bid for funding from the DCLG, KCC remains committed to carrying out repairs to the highway network. The additional crews from the Find & Fix work will remain in the area and Highway Inspectors and Highway Stewards will continue to arrange the repair of weather damaged roads. In addition to defects that do not meet the safety criteria, areas of patching will be carried out where there is a risk of failure in the near future.

4.2 Additional resurfacing is being planned and programmed for this financial year together with areas that have been extensively patched this year being programmed for surface treatment, such as surface dressing, in the next financial year.

## **5.0 Conclusion**

5.1 The increased funding has already had an impact across the county in the reduction of potholes and the resurfacing of many roads damaged last winter. With further expected funding, more patching and resurfacing will be carried out across the Borough.

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