Birmingham City Council
Highways

Highway Maintenance **September 2011 Update**

Extra Road Maintenance Funding
(following abnormal damage caused by the severe 2010/11 winter)

As part of the 2011 Budget, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced additional funding allocation of £200 million to local authorities towards road maintenance expenditure, following the abnormal damage caused by the severe winter in 2010/11. Birmingham's share of this overall ring fenced allocation amounted to £1.682m with the specific grant condition that this funding would only be available until 30th September 2011.

In 2009, the A38 Sutton Coldfield Bypass, a dual carriageway with 70mph speed limit, was de-trunked thereby transferring responsibility for the maintenance and operational management of the section of the Bypass, extending from Minworth Island to Junction T3 of the M6 Toll Road, from the Highways Agency to Birmingham City Council.

This is the only part of the Council's publicly maintained highway that is not within the scope of its 25 year Highway Maintenance and Management Private Finance Initiative (HMMPFI) contract which commenced in June 2010. The responsibility for maintenance (including winter damage) on roads within the scope of the HMMPFI contract resides with the HMMPFI Service Provider.

In line with the conditions of the grant, the winter damage allocation was used to design and implement essential safety related resurfacing works to renew the life expired and severely winter damaged carriageway surfaces of the By-pass.

To meet the funding requirements, the works were procured through the Highways Agency Midlands 4 Framework Contract. The scheme commenced on site on 22nd August and and was completed on 18th September. It was delivered within the required quality, budget and specified timescales.

The scheme is an excellent example of collaborative working between BCC and the Highways Agency in ensuring best value to our service users.