**Freedom of Information Act / Environmental Information Regulations Request**

Reference: ECC18245303 04 25  
Response: 09 April 2025

I can confirm that Essex County Council does hold some of this information, and where we are able to release this, our response is listed below.

**Question 1 -** Do you use internal or external contractors to facilitate the following pothole repairs, patching works, pre patching and small scale resurfacing projects

**Question 2 -** What machinery do you use for pothole repairs, patching works, pre patching and small scale resurfacing works

**Question 3 -** How much do you spend per pothole repair on average via traditional methods and machinery repairs  
  
**Question 4** - How much does it cost you to repair each identified pothole on average?  
  
**Question 5** - Are you in contact with a company for pothole/patching/pre-pathing repairs? if so who is this contractor with  
  
**Question 6** - How many years does this contract have left to run for pothole/patching works  
  
**Question 7** - What machinery have you reviewed/received a demo on to speed up carriageway repairs  
  
**Question 8 -** How do you fund pothole & patching repairs, Capital or revenue, what is the split?  
  
**Question 9** - Do you use your own internal teams for Highways repairs? In relation to potholes/ patching and pre patching?  
  
**Question 10** - What frameworks do you call upon for additional machinery or operatives, in relation to Highway repairs?

Works are delivered under an integrated partnership between Essex County Council and Ringway Jacobs, called Essex Highways.

The initial contract started on 01/04/2012 for a 10-year period, with an option to extend up to an additional 5 years. The contract was extended for the full 5 years and the current contract arrangement expires 31/3/2027.

Under the Essex Highways partnership procurement of works is not via a ‘schedule of rate contract’ where the cost of each piece of work undertaken is known prior to delivery. In order to derive savings attributed to economies of scale, items of works are often batched together and the corresponding lowest ‘target costs’ obtained from the Ringway Jacobs wide supply chain or works are carried out by our in-house crews.

We do not record the cost of each and every individual job that takes place on the highway, so cannot give information on how much was spent on average. The time and expense of recording this information for each job would be prohibitive and is not a requirement of the partnership.

Essex Highways, and Ringways Jacobs wide range of supply chain partners use various types of machinery to repair potholes depending on the requirements of the works.

Essex County Council do not specifically budget for the identification and repair of potholes, but these are part of the works undertaken utilising the Roads and Footways Maintenance budget allocations.

Revenue expenditure includes works undertaken utilising the Roads and Footways Maintenance budget allocations, for example, for minor or localised carriageway repairs.

Where there are significant maintenance requirements on a road, the decision might be taken to resurface the whole road, which is where the capital budget is utilised; this supports a rolling programme of works that aims to improve the condition of the road to extend its usable life and prevent potholes from forming in the first place.

Budgets are published each year on the [Essex County Council](https://www.essex.gov.uk/about-council/spending-and-council-tax/finance-and-spending-breakdowns) website, however there is not a defined split.

Over the years many innovations have been investigated for the repair of potholes and we have published this information in our [Highways Highlights](https://www.essexhighways.org/highways-highlights) newsletters that are publicly available online. We are currently utilising ‘[Roadmender](https://www.essexhighways.org/news/essex-highways-rolls-out-faster-and-greener-way-to-repair-roads-using-old-lorry-tyres)’ as a faster and greener way to repair roads.

Being in an integrated partnership with Ringways Jacobs enables Essex County Council to scale its highways delivery operation depending on requirements, as well as being able to direct contract if necessary.

**Your Right to Know**

Democracy and Transparency

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