

Our Ref: **Leader/2017-09/016**

Your Ref:

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR



Tuesday, 19 September 2017

POTHOLES

Dear Secretary of State

Lambeth has worked hard to improve the local environment and create neighbourhoods that are safe, clean and attractive.

As part of this work, we have prioritised investment in our highways so that by April 2018, Lambeth will have fixed over 3,000 potholes and resurfaced over 130 miles of roads and pavements.

However, it is becoming clear across the country that the squeeze on local authority budgets is having a damaging impact on the state of local roads. The LGA estimates that £12bn is needed to fix neglected roads and the backlog could take 14 years to clear. One in five mechanical failures in cars on UK roads is estimated to be as a result of potholes and 12% accidents involving cyclists are attributable to poor road maintenance.

Without significantly increased Government funding our roads will continue to deteriorate at a faster rate than can be repaired. The Government's recently announced £250m Pothole Action Fund is a drop in the ocean compared to the £12bn backlog in roads maintenance. And in any case, this funding is not available to London local authorities. The Government claims that this is because councils here receive separate funding through Transport for London - but since the fund's launch nearly two years ago Lambeth has not received an extra penny.

Ahead of the Budget in November, I urge you to agree a new programme of support so local authorities have sufficient resources to tackle potholes and improve roads, and put in place a long-term plan to address the decay of the underlying road infrastructure.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JBrathwaite".

Councillor Jennifer Brathwaite
Cabinet Member for Environment & Housing
Email: jbrathwaite@lambeth.gov.uk

London Borough of Lambeth
Leader's Office
Olive Morris House
Brixton Hill
London SW2 1RW

Telephone: 020 7926 1167
www.lambeth.gov.uk



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE