

Report to	Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
Date	10 October 2005
Report By	Director of Transport and Environment
Title of Report	Petition calling for road surface improvements on part of the A269
Purpose of Report	To consider a petition requesting the A269 is resurfaced at Ninfield between the Memorial Hall southwards towards Freezels Lane near Bexhill.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To advise the petitioners that :

- 1. a section of the A269 has been included in the 2005/06 resurfacing programme;**
 - 2. the remaining length of the A269 does not satisfy the condition criteria for treatment, and this will be reassessed as part of the priority ranking process for 2006/07 principal road structural maintenance schemes.**
-
-

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 There are no financial implications at this stage in respect of the recommendations detailed in this report.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 At the County Council meeting on 16 July 2005 Councillors Bentley and Thomas presented a petition to the Chairman requesting resurfacing of the A269 at Ninfield between the Memorial Hall, southwards towards Freezels Lane near Bexhill (see attached plan).

2.2 A copy of the petition is available in the Members' Room. Standing Orders provide that where the Chairman considers it appropriate, petitions are considered by the relevant Committee or Lead Member and that a spokesperson for the petitioners is invited to address the Committee. The Chairman has referred this petition to the Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment.

2.3 Resurfacing of principal roads is funded from within the Local Transport Plan (LTP) capital allocation for structural maintenance. The 2005/06 LTP structural maintenance budget is £7.586m, of which £1.048m is available for expenditure on principal roads. The remainder is allocated to non-principal roads (B, C and Unclassified roads), pavement resurfacing, bridges and structures, and culvert replacement, reflecting the indicative allocations presented by the Department of Transport (DfT).

2.4 The condition and ride quality of the A269 between Crouch Lane and Freezels Lane is clearly not perfect, but is considered to be fit for purpose. The road is subject to monthly safety inspections by the Network Office with any defects exceeding current maintenance tolerances being scheduled for repair within 28 days.

3. Prioritisation of Work

3.1 Road resurfacing schemes on the principal road (A Class roads) network are prioritised on a needs basis informed by condition survey data. The following condition survey data is used to inform the prioritisation of work:

- Skidding Resistance Survey – Surveys are undertaken on the principal road network on a three year cycle (1/3 of the network each year) to measure the skidding resistance of the road surface. The results of these surveys are used to assess the level of shortcoming in the skidding resistance of the road surface.
- Coarse Visual Inspection (CVI) – These are driven visual inspections which measure defects in line with national criteria. The principal road network has in recent years been surveyed annually, in order to produce the Best Value Performance Indicator for road condition (BV96). The data is utilised to grade the condition of individual schemes within a ranking order.
- Structural Strength Survey – These are undertaken on the principal road network on a five year cycle (1/5 of the network each year) to measure the structural strength of the road. The results of these surveys are used to assess the level of shortcoming in the structural strength of the road's construction.

3.2 The results of these three surveys are combined to rank the schemes in priority order. The number of schemes implemented annually is dependent upon the available resources.

4. Work Programme

4.1 In 2005/06 a total of 93 schemes were assessed, estimated to cost in excess of £11.3m, of which only 5 could be funded. The following two schemes were assessed within the section of road identified by the petition:-

- A269 Crouch Lane to B2095 within Ninfield (cost £0.20m)
This scheme was ranked fifth out of 93 and funds were allocated for work in 2005/06. This work was completed on 24 August 2005
- A269 Thorne Farm To Lunsford Cross (cost £0.15m)
This scheme was ranked 19 in priority order and funds were not sufficient to enable this scheme to progress.

5. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

5.1 Maintenance schemes on the principal road network are prioritised on the basis of need taking into account the skidding resistance, visual condition and structural strength of the road.

5.2 The section of road between Crouch Lane and the B2095 has been included in the 2005/06 programme on the basis of need. However, the remaining length of the A269 does not meet the condition criteria for resurfacing within the funds available. This later section of road will be reassessed within the priority ranking process for 2006/07 principal road schemes.

BOB WILKINS
Director of Transport and Environment

Contact Officer: Tony Pike Tel. No. 01273 482130

Local Member(s): Councillors Thomas and Bentley

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS - None.