

“WINTER WEATHER DAMAGE TO BOROUGH ROADS”

The unusually cold and snowy weather experience across the Country in Nov/Dec 2010, again prompted the Department for Transport (DfT) to consider providing additional grant funding to Highway Authorities, as they had the previous year. The Chancellor of the Exchequer confirmed, in his Budget speech, that additional funding would be provided in 2011/12. The Royal Borough of Kingston’s allocation was £189,838 and this has been received.

The additional funding has been split and assigned to the Borough’s Neighbourhood Committees, who have responsibility for highway maintenance. The split was calculated using the results from last year’s carriageway and footway condition survey, so it can be better targeted to areas of need. The apportionment was:

Kingston Town	=	£41,764	(22%)
Maldens & Coombe	=	£72,138	(38%)
South of the Borough	=	£43,663	(23%)
Surbiton	=	£32,273	(17%)

The monies will be used, in addition to the Neighbourhoods’ current responsive maintenance budgets of £549,200, to deal with localised failures of both the carriageways and footways.

In addition to the Department for Transport funding, the Council has also increased its Highway Planned Maintenance budget by £700,000. This will be used to cover the cost of the preparation works for the Cycle Road Race Olympic ‘test’ event, which will be held on the 14th August. The remainder is being allocated, on a Borough-wide priority basis, to carriageway resurfacing and major footway maintenance schemes. The locations of these schemes, together with the already agreed Neighbourhood programmes, can found on the Councils website –

http://www.kingston.gov.uk/browse/transport_and_streets/highways/planned_highway_maintenance_programme.htm

Further information may be obtained from David White, Service Manager (Highway Assets) by email – david.white@rbk.kingston.gov.uk