

Councillor Barry Lewis

London Borough of Sutton
Chair of Environment & Sustainable Transport Committee
Liberal Democrat Councillor for Wallington North



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Paul Scully MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
(Minister for Tech and the Digital Economy) & Minister for London
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA
Email: paul.scully.mp@parliament.uk

Sent by email only

Date: 28 March 2023

Dear Paul,

Road Maintenance Funding for London

There has been a great deal in the news recently about the state of roads in London and across the country. The extremes of wet and cold weather over the winter have taken their toll and have resulted in a significant increase in potholes. Potholes pose a risk to the safety of all road users, causing damage to vehicles and a particularly severe risk to cyclists.

I was therefore pleased to see that the Government had found an additional £200 million for local authorities to help tackle the pothole proliferation, but was extremely disappointed to find out that not a penny had been set aside for Sutton or indeed any other London authority.

As you know, London has some of the busiest and most important roads in the country. It is hard to understand that the Government does not believe that London's roads need additional investment. The recent State of the City report by the London Technical Advisors Group (LoTAG) highlighted a £1.59 billion highway maintenance backlog in London, with a £166 million funding gap in 2021 alone. Sutton is doing its bit locally and has again increased its annual capital investment in its highways infrastructure to help extend the life of its assets. However, the Council's revenue budgets are under increasing pressure and additional funding to tackle potholes is needed just as much here as it is across the rest of the country.

I know that the Chair of the London Councils' Transport and Environment Committee, is writing to Richard Holden as the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Roads and Local Transport) about this matter, so I thought I would write to you as a Sutton MP and Minister for London to seek your support too.

I do hope you can speak with DfT and Treasury Ministerial colleagues to ensure London does receive its fair share and gets the recognition and support it deserves.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Barry Lewis', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Barry Lewis
Chair of Environment & Sustainable Transport Committee