

## INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FOLLOWING SEVERE WINTER WEATHER IN 2009.

The next challenge for my Highways team will be to deal with the increasing number of potholes that have occurred as a result of the cold and wet weather. The recent extended spell of freezing conditions followed by severe rainfall has resulted in literally thousands of potholes of varying size and depth appearing within the highway. Due to the large increase, our contractor is providing additional dedicated pothole gangs for use across the County.

Potholes are reported either by the Highway Inspectors during their regular checks or from members of the public. Our procedure for pothole repairs which exceed a certain size is to carry out a temporary repair with a cold material within 24 hours. This is done in any weather condition. The temporary repairs are then fully reinstated on a prioritised basis.

In extreme cases, a further repair may need to be made to the initial temporary repair to keep the road in a safe condition. This would happen in very busy times where emergencies must take precedence, or where the permanent repair requires extensive traffic management.

There are generally two types of permanent repairs used on potholes. The first involves the clearing of any loose material and the application of a bituminous repair material. This can generally be carried out in a relatively short time and in ideal conditions will last until at least the next regular highway inspection which would be within a maximum of 6 months from the date of the repair. This type of repair is generally used where significant works would provide an unacceptable level of traffic disruption given the type of defect. Also, this type of repair is sometimes used as effectively as a temporary repair in advance of more substantive works such as large area road patching or resurfacing.

The second type of repair is more substantive and involves excavating a usually rectangular area around the pothole and filling with a bituminous material in conjunction with a sealant around the edges.