

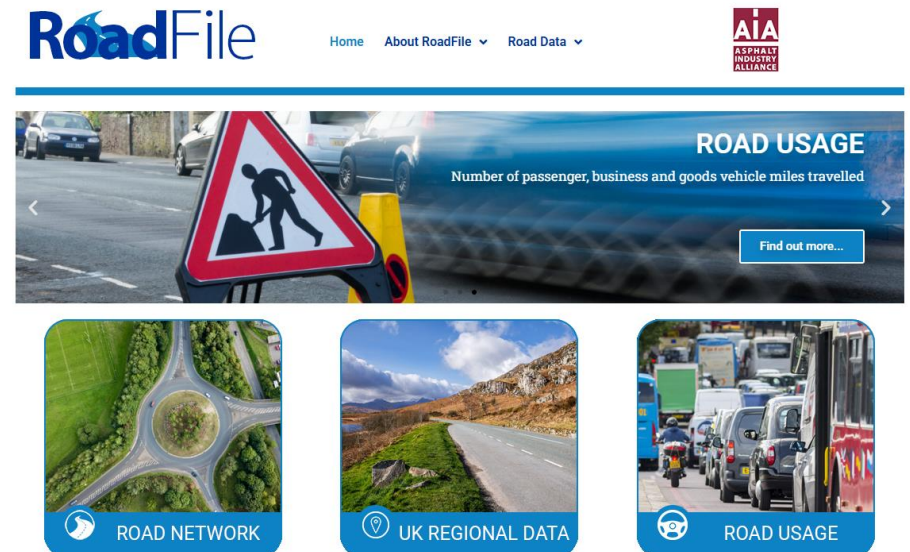
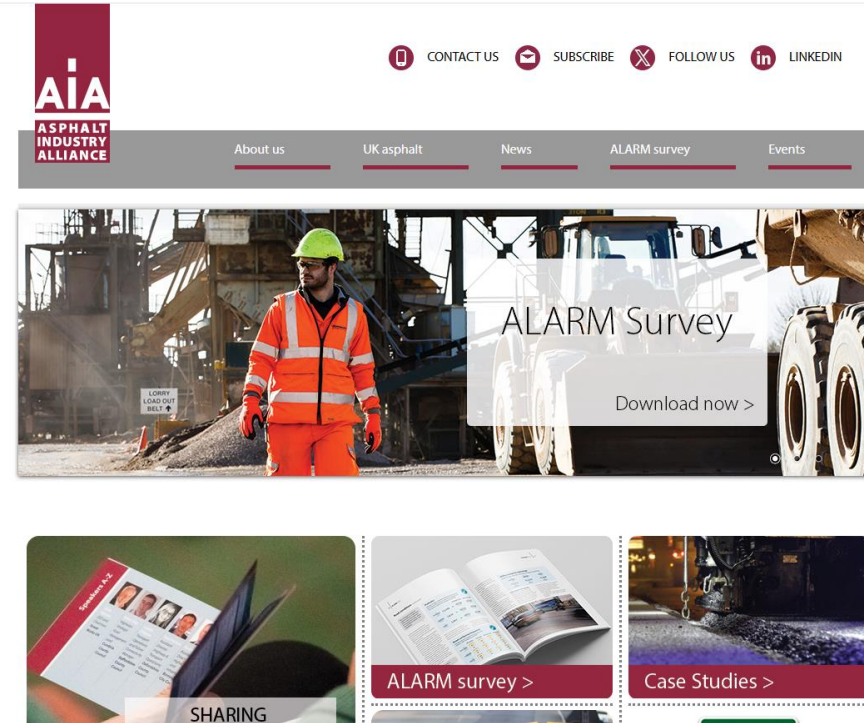
ALARM bells keep ringing for local roads

David Giles, Chair
Asphalt Industry Alliance



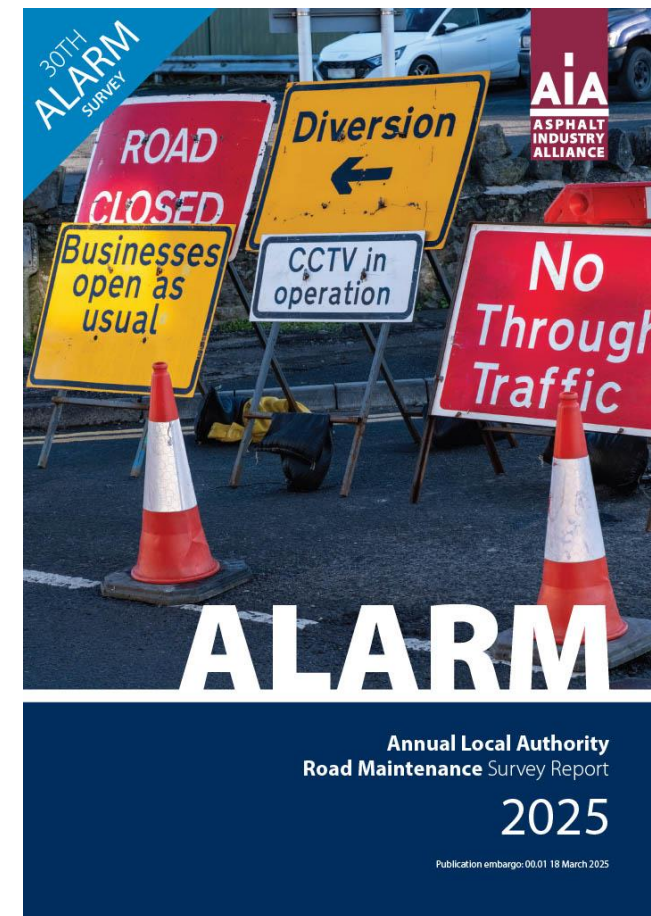
The Asphalt Industry Alliance

- A partnership between the Mineral Products Association (MPA) and Eurobitume.
- Aims to increase awareness of the asphalt industry and promote the uses and benefits of asphalt to specifiers, policymakers and the general public.
- Key activity includes supporting the All Party Parliamentary Group for Better Roads and holding an annual Sharing Best Practice event for local authority highway engineers.
- We also support RoadFile, an online hub for road-related statistics from a range of UK and EU sources: www.roadusers.org.uk
- Plus, our Annual Local Authority Road Maintenance (ALARM) survey.



Annual Local Authority Road Maintenance (ALARM) survey report

- Provides a snapshot of the general condition of the local road network and funding in England and Wales.
- Information is provided directly by local authority highway teams and comes from both quantitative and qualitative research.
- Independently verified.
- Provides credible data to help build a robust picture.
- Provides bench marking for local authorities.
- Supports our ongoing campaign to keep the maintenance and funding of local roads on the agenda and top of mind with policy makers and budget holders.
- Now in its 30th year, allowing long-term trends to be reported.
- Impactful: *Don't just take our word for it.* Reports what local authorities are telling us.
- Industry, media, central and local government consider it to be a valuable and reliable source of information.



The AIA's ALARM campaign



Generate credible data for substantive report



Headline grabbing media campaign to raise/maintain awareness of funding issues and link to carriageway conditions



Influence change by raising awareness among policy makers and budget holders



ALARM survey report 2025

- Local roads are considered to be a council's most valuable asset, worth in excess of £400bn (DfT England only).
- Only around 1% of this value is spent annually on their maintenance.
- And much is spent on immediate/urgent repairs rather than planned and proactive work.

Only 1%



**of local road asset value is
spent on annual maintenance**

The problem is we don't view local road maintenance as being a contributor to local growth, but it absolutely is. Every service in a council relies on highways, emergency services rely on highways, the economy relies on highways...

Quote is from a local
authority highway official

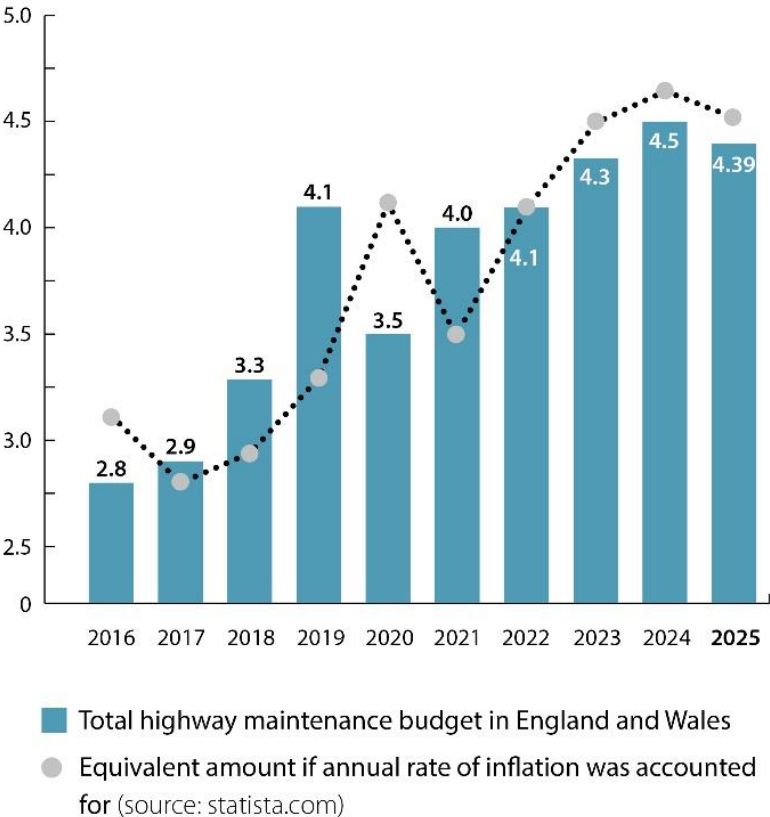
ALARM 2025: Highway maintenance funding

- Lack of investment has led to a state of managed decline.
- Total highway maintenance budget saw real terms cut of 4.1% to an average of £26 million.
- Trend data shows below inflation level allocations for three of the last four years.
- Rising costs add to the impact.



Highway maintenance budgets CUT to average of £26m

10 year trend: total highway maintenance budget
2015/16 – 2024/25 (£bn)



Capital and revenue budgets have been going down steadily over the years and, while one-off injections are appreciated, they are not sustainable or supportive of good asset management practice.

We had a bit more money this year, but our costs have gone up so we're back where we started.

Quotes are from a local authority highway official

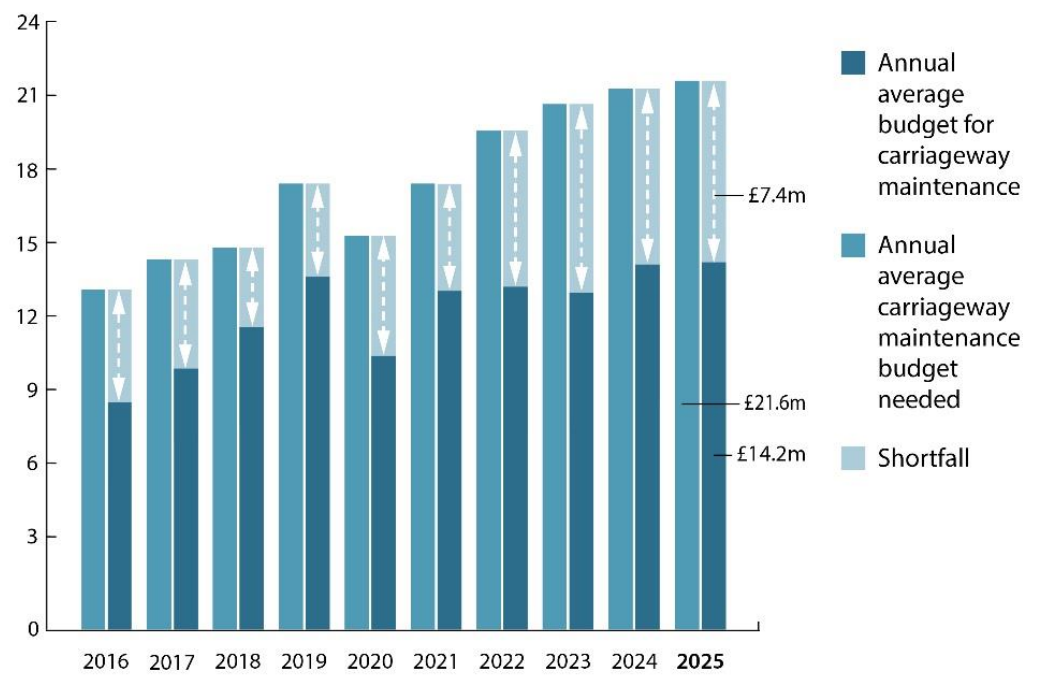
ALARM 2025: Budget shortfall

- Budget shortfall = the gap between what local authorities received and what they said they would have needed to spend on the carriageway to keep roads to their own target conditions and prevent further decline.



10 year trend: carriageway maintenance budget needed 2015/16 – 2024/25

Annual average per authority (£m)



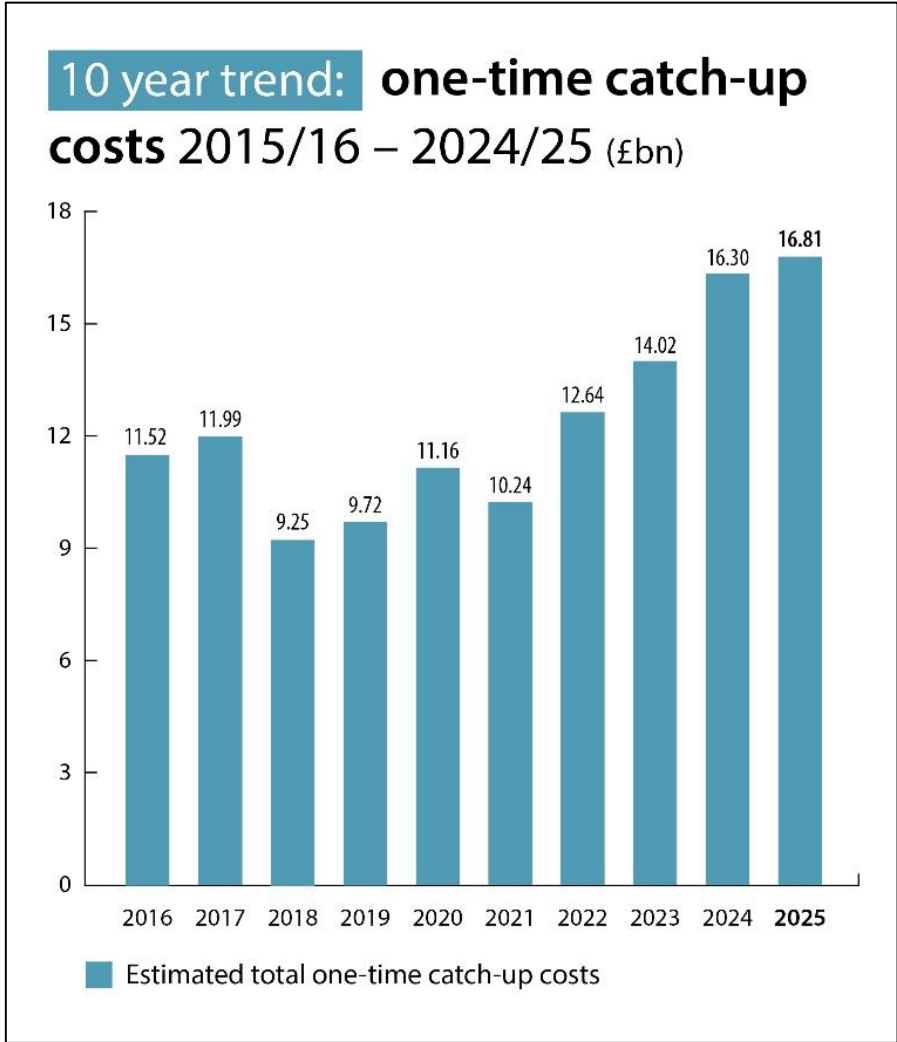
ALARM 2025: Backlog of carriageway repairs

- The backlog of carriageway repairs in England and Wales has reached new heights at almost £17 billion.
- Local authority highway officials need maintenance budgets to double for the next 5 – 10 years if they are going to be able to make lasting improvements to the condition and resilience of the network.



Highway maintenance funds need to at least double and be consistent over the next 5 to 10 years to deliver lasting improvements

Quote is from a local authority highway official

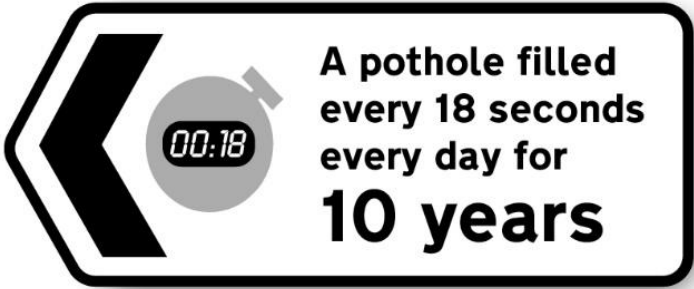


ALARM 2025: local road conditions

- More than half of the local road network could fail in the next 15 years.
- Roads are only resurfaced, on average, once every 93 years.
- Over the last decade 17.5m potholes have been filled (equivalent to one every 18 seconds) but they are not inevitable, they are the symptom of an underfunded network.

We are just plugging holes: we fill one pothole and then there's already another crack somewhere else.

Quote is from a local authority highway official



Calling for a fair deal for local roads

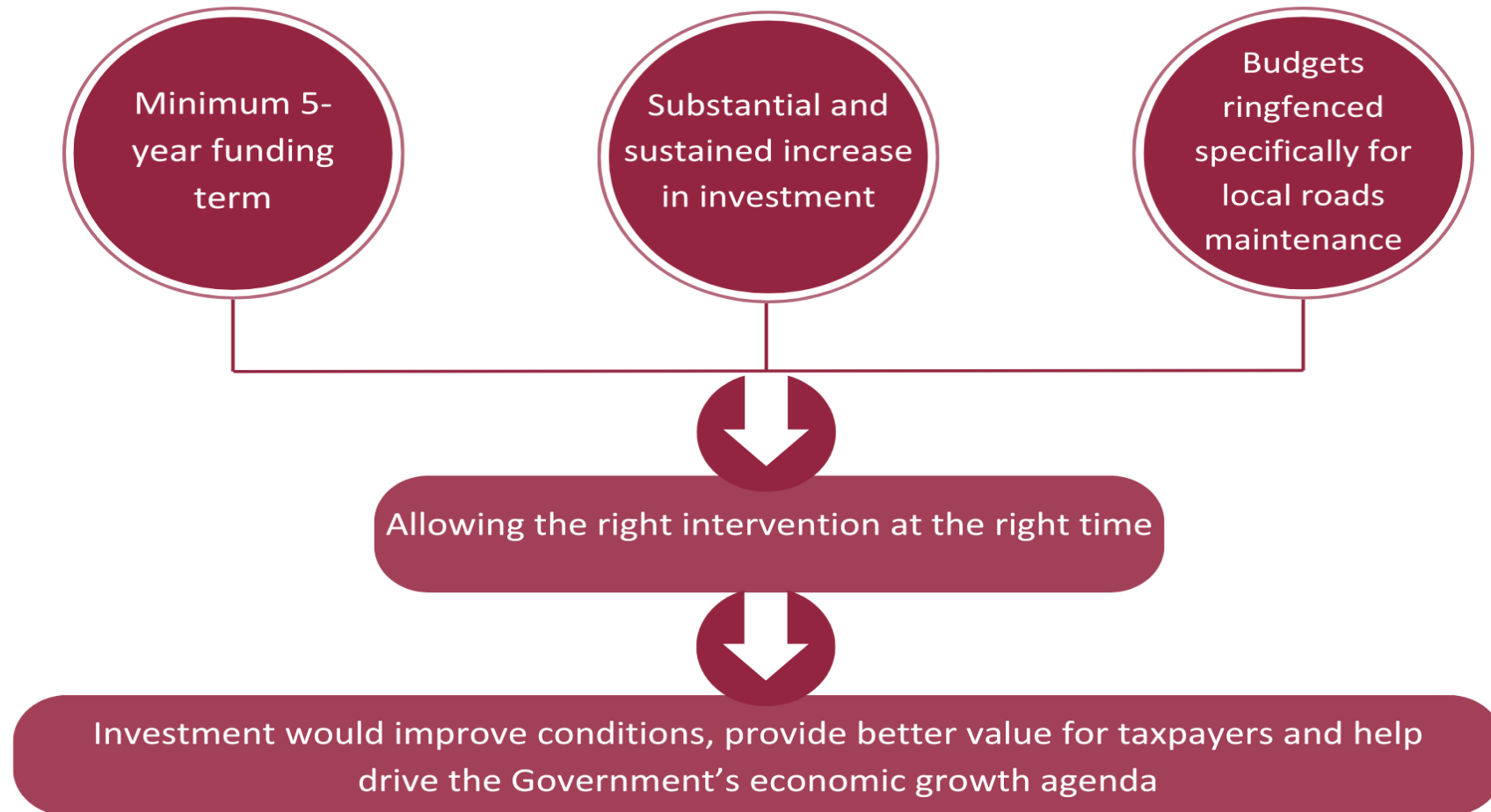
- ALARM has become integral to the national debate on potholes and local road conditions.
- The AIA continues to use its findings to emphasise the importance of increased, sustained and targeted investment in our local roads.
- There needs to be a change of mindset to longer-term funding commitments like those that A1 and the SRN benefit from.
- Spending Review feels like another missed opportunity to make a lasting change to the condition of our roads.

“Overall it appears that road spending has actually been cut and it feels as though another opportunity has slipped by to help drive growth and make a lasting change to the condition of our roads.”

**David Giles, Chair, AIA,
commenting on the Government's
Spending Review**



AIA's recommendations for local road maintenance funding



Working together

- We work with other industry bodies, consumer groups and road maintenance experts to amplify this call.
- Attended RAC event in Parliament, which took the message direct to MPs and peers including Future of Roads Minister Lilian Greenwood.
- Also took part in roundtable event on the condition of local roads hosted in Westminster by Gareth Bacon MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Transport.



The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Better Roads



- The AIA also co-supports the APPG for Better Roads with the Institute of Highway Engineers (IHE).
- Group is chaired by Rebecca Paul, MP for Reigate.
- The APPG aims to promote an understanding of the importance of the highway network plus, the safety, environmental, economic and social case for a properly maintained sustainable UK network.
- www.appg-betterroads.org

Questions?



info@asphaltuk.org



www.asphaltuk.org



@asphalt-industry-alliance



@AIA_asphalt

