

## THE STATE OF POTHOLE MANAGEMENT IN UK LOCAL AUTHORITY

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### *ABSTRACT*

Road surface damage, particularly, potholes indicate an advance stage of deterioration. The rapid increase in the number of potholes in the UK road network is not only generating public concern, but also creating significant strain on maintenance budget. In this paper, results from a qualitative study focused on pothole management in local authority environment in the UK are presented. Local authorities in the UK are responsible for managing approximately 90% of the road network. The study involved developing an understanding on the current state of technical maturity of pothole repair, pothole management, including experts' opinion on future needs for research and development. In total, the response from eighty local authorities showed that despite good agreement on material selection, the definition of pothole together with the techniques for patch repair is widely variable resulting in inconsistent repair performance. Approximately 40% respondents indicated no record of repeat repair despite digital means of pothole recording either in a central database or in a localized system. It was found that approximately 87% respondents do not have a whole life cost model for patch repair. A strong opinion was expressed for further research and development on the repair process, overall management of the repair system and training to operatives.