

SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

Report

Item: 13

Subject : Pavement Surface Replacement
Committee : Environment
Date : 9 June 2025
Author : Marc Read, Head of Environmental Services

1. Report Summary:

- 1.1. This report seeks Councillor input on a proposal submitted by Wiltshire Council's Highways Team to replace paving slabs with tarmac in three Salisbury city centre locations. The suggested change is intended to reduce ongoing repair costs and mitigate health and safety risks resulting from vehicle damage to the existing pavement surface.

2. Background:

- 2.1. Several areas within Salisbury city centre, specifically outside The Chapel Nightclub (Milford Street), Everyman Cinema (Endless Street), and McDonald's & CEX (Winchester Street), have been subject to frequent damage due to vehicles, particularly delivery lorries and taxis, mounting the pavement.
- 2.2. The existing paved surfaces in these high-traffic zones are not designed to withstand regular vehicular loads mounting them. As a result, the slabs are often displaced, cracked, or broken. Wiltshire Council currently replaces the slabs at least once per year, and in some cases more frequently, resulting in:
- Significant and recurring maintenance costs
 - Public safety concerns due to trip hazards
 - Negative visual impact on the city centre streetscape

3. Key Considerations:

- 3.1. Highways Team Proposal:
- Replace paving slabs with tarmac surfacing in the affected areas
 - The tarmac would be flush with existing surfaces to ensure smooth transitions and maintain accessibility
 - Potential for long-term cost savings and reduced disruption from repairs
- 3.2. Health & Safety:
- Displaced paving slabs are a known cause of trips and falls
 - Risk increases during periods of high footfall, especially at night near venues such as Chapel Nightclub
 - Tarmac is less prone to movement or displacement under pressure
- 3.3. Aesthetic & Heritage Considerations:

- The affected areas are within the historic city centre
- Councillor feedback is sought on whether functional durability should take precedence over heritage paving consistency

3.4. Maintenance and Cost:

- Paved surfaces in these locations incur repeated, unplanned maintenance costs
- Tarmac would reduce these costs and improve service efficiency

4. Recommendations

4.1. It is recommended that the Committee:

- Consider the balance between aesthetic preservation and practical functionality, in these high-load areas with recurring damage and determine whether to support the proposal from Wiltshire Council to replace paving slabs with tarmac at the following locations:
 - Outside Chapel Nightclub & Bar, Milford Street
 - Outside Everyman Cinema, Endless Street
 - Outside McDonald's & CEX, Winchester Street

6. **Wards Affected:** St Edmunds

7. **Background Papers:** None

8. Implications:

8.1. **Financial:** Potential for significant long-term savings to Wiltshire Council by avoiding repeat repairs; no direct cost to Salisbury City Council.

8.2. **Personnel:** None directly.

8.3. **Environmental Impact:** Neutral to low; could reduce disruption from recurring works. Possible loss of permeable surfaces.

8.4. **Equalities Impact:** Tarmac provides smoother access for mobility-impaired users but may contrast with surrounding surfaces.