



Town Hall
Wellington Street
London
SE18 6PW

020 8921 5045

calum.obyrne.mulligan@royalgreenwich.gov.uk
royalgreenwich.gov.uk

13th January 2026

Dear Minister Lightwood,

Concerns over DfT grading methodology

Further to our previous correspondence, I'm writing to you again to request an exceptional review of our data following Department for Transport's (DfT) local highway authority ratings over the weekend.

We are grateful for the time the Department has taken to meet with us to discuss our concerns over our rating. As set out in the meeting with Officials, when we completed our assessment we included spend data on areas that we felt directly linked with highways maintenance, in part due to the limited detail in the scope published in DfT guidance.

Following conversations with DfT officials and a review of other local authorities' submissions, it is clear that we could have included spend for a number of other areas including street lighting, gullies and winter services. Including this data for 24/25 significantly increases our level of spend and we feel that this change could have a material difference, potentially moving us above neighbouring councils who have been graded higher than Greenwich. We are sharing this information with DfT colleagues and request that this be used to review our grading.

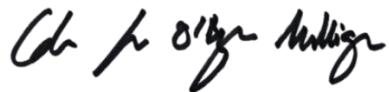
We of course understand that this assessment is focused on the 24/25 financial year and therefore, unfortunately, does not take into account the significant improvements in both practice and spend we have implemented. For best practice, we have established annual condition surveys and developed a new highway asset management plan. We welcome the opportunity to further discuss and enhance this through the peer review process and further engagement with the Department.

For spend, alongside the very welcome additional £816,000 from DfT we have committed a further £8million from our Getting Things Done programme for the next five years. This investment has allowed us to resurface 21 roads since September alone. Since the submission of data to the DfT in June 2025, we've also completed more condition surveys to assess our roads and appointed a new contractor to help us carry out the essential improvements to roads, pavements, bridges and lighting.



We welcome the sentiment behind this work and applaud the government's ambition to improve the condition of the road network nationally as we push ahead with this agenda locally. We welcome the opportunity of an independent peer review in this area to demonstrate the progress we have made over the last few months and understand where we can continue to make improvements.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Calum O'Byrne Mulligan, Cabinet Member for Climate Action, Sustainability and Transport

Royal Borough of Greenwich

