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Request for details regarding the widening of the pavement at the corner of East Preston Street and Dalkeith Road (henceforth referred to as the "Action") which is currently underway. Specifically, please advise:

What the rationale is for this Action?

As part of the Council's Covid-19 response, temporary footway widening measures were introduced around Preston Street Primary School to provide additional space for pedestrians to maintain social distancing. This rationale was also applied at other schools.

The Preston Street Primary School Travel Plan identified narrow pavements as a significant concern and expressed support for making the widened area permanent. Following feedback from the school regarding the narrow footway as well as crowded crossing points, it was agreed to make the section of roadway previously bollarded off for pedestrians a permanent footway.

The objectives of this scheme are to:

- Widen the footway to improve pedestrian safety as the first priority.
- Narrow the carriageway to help reduce vehicle speeds.
- Create a more pedestrian-friendly environment outside Preston Street Primary School.

What consultations were undertaken to determine the appropriateness of this Action?

Consultation included:

- A meeting between the Council's Road Safety team, Preston Street Primary School Parent Council, Public Transport and local councillors.
- Direct engagement took place with the school to address specific safety and accessibility concerns.

What criteria do you use to determine where your budget is spent with respect to roadworks?

Road safety works are funded separately from Asset Maintenance, and they are prioritised at locations where they will have the greatest potential to improve safety for all road users. This follows a detailed assessment process, which can include site inspections, traffic surveys, speed monitoring, and collision data analysis. Funding is directed towards schemes that address identified safety issues and are expected to deliver measurable improvements for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike.

What is your budget for roadworks overall for the current financial year?

- How was this Action prioritised against other roadworks – such as the repair of the shocking state of our roads, as one small example Mentone Terrace?

The Road Safety budget is focused on improving safety overall. While we coordinate with the Asset Management and Roads Operations teams, who are responsible for road infrastructure and maintenance, these works are funded separately.

Priorities for Asset Management are decided once a year, based on a process which depends on road condition, type of road and traffic usage and capital funds are used. The Roads and Infrastructure Investment – Capital Delivery Priorities for 2024/25 were reported

to the Transport and Environment Committee on 25 April 2024 and can be seen at <https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s69295/Item%207.6%20-%20Roads%20and%20Infrastructure%20Investment%20-%20Capital%20Delivery%20Priorities%202024-25.pdf>

Repairs of road defects, such as potholes, relies on a different process, including responding to user feedback and comes from revenue money. Pothole problems can be reported on the Council website at <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/roadproblem>