

Maintenance of Bridge Structures in Havering

There are over 150 highway structures in Havering of which the majority are owned by, and the responsibility of, the Council. These include bridges, subways, culverts and retaining walls.

Those associated with Trunk Roads (A12, A13, and A127) and Motorways (M25) are owned and maintained by the Highways Agency.

Railway Bridges are generally owned by the company that they serve i.e. either Network Rail or London Underground, however in the case of 'road over rail' bridges, the Borough has a responsibility to maintain the footway and carriageway surfaces.

All structures for which the Council has a responsibility are visually inspected every two years (General Inspection) to assess their overall condition, and once every six years a more detailed survey is undertaken (Principal Inspection) which involves the inspector actually being close enough to touch all visible areas of the structure and tests are carried out to more accurately determine the condition.

From those inspections, reports are compiled to indicate the condition of all elements of the structure, identify any defects, and recommend any necessary remedial works together with providing an estimate of the costs involved.

The recommendations of those reports are used to prioritise subsequent works. It may be possible to make minor repairs to rectify the situation, but where more extensive repairs may be necessary, structures will need to be assessed to confirm their load carrying capabilities.

Applications for Assessment funding need to be made to TfL via the LoBEG (London Bridge Engineering Group) bidding process.

Structures that do not satisfy current assessment requirements will require strengthening or other interim measures until such time as sufficient funds are available to do so under TfL's Assessment and Strengthening budget. However, available funds are very tight and all bids are considered alongside those from other London Boroughs before being strictly prioritised. Therefore, it is often necessary to simply monitor structures and resubmit a bid the following, and often subsequent, years.