

Highways Performance Dashboard

Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

1. Introduction

In response to the recommendations of the Planned & Reactive Maintenance: Potholes & Drainage Task Group presented to the Corporate, Infrastructure and Regulatory Services (CIRS) Scrutiny Committee in March 2019 an updated Performance Dashboard Report has been produced. The intention of this report is to provide Members with an overview of the performance of Devon Highways.

This report considers the following areas;

- Network condition
- Reactive works including potholes and drainage cleaning
- Winter service

2. Network Condition

Highway Authorities are required to collect and submit data on the condition of their highway network on an annual basis. In Devon, this information is collected via a driven machine survey. The main measure of condition is the Road Condition Indicator (RCI). This is made up of several parameters, such as cracking and rutting, which combine to give an overall measure of the state of the road.

Sections of road can be split into three categories (red, amber and green) based on the RCI. The roads categorised as 'red' are those that should have been considered for maintenance (i.e. further investigation is required). These roads will not necessarily require immediate treatment, but they should be inspected to determine whether maintenance is required. Roads categorised as 'amber' are where work may be needed sometime soon, while those categorised as 'green' are where no further investigation or work is needed to bring it up to standard.

The most recent results have been received and can be seen in Appendix 1.

Analysis of this data shows that there has been an improvement across all of the various classifications of network with a reduction in the amount of network classified red with a corresponding increase in the length of green.

There are a number of factors that have contributed to this improvement including, the introduction of serviceability patching, use of the Dragon Patcher and additional funding (one off capital settlements and Pothole Action Fund).

3. Reactive works including potholes and drainage cleaning;

3.1 Potholes

Another indicator for the condition of the road network is the number of recorded potholes. In general, the number of potholes recorded each month in 2021 has been below the five year average. In addition to the general improvement in the condition of the network discussed above the relatively benign weather throughout autumn and the start of winter has been a benefit. The above average figures recorded for June and August were due to the wet weather experienced in May and June and the reprogramming of annual inspections to the summer months.

A table of recorded potholes can be seen in Appendix 2.

3.2 Gully Cleansing

The gully cleaning gangs are slightly behind programme but are confident of addressing this gap by dedicating some 'hand clean' gangs to some problem areas and increasing resources if necessary. A table of work carried out to date can be found in Appendix 3.

3.3 Grips, Easements and Buddleholes

The cleaning of grips, easements and buddleholes remains slightly ahead of programme. A table of work carried out to date can be found in Appendix 3.

3.4 Management of Drainage Issues

In the last year Milestone have expanded the use of the Kaarbontech system to manage work referred by the gully cleaning gangs. This process enables a gang to report a location that they have been unable to clean and requires additional work, such as a stuck or broken cover, blockages or overgrown vegetation. This financial year has seen in excess of 25,600 referrals made by the gangs. In response to these referrals the gangs have been able to address more than 22,000 of these requests. This is an area of the work that the team would like to continue developing by increasing capacity to meet the demand and reducing response times. However, this is going to be difficult in the next financial year with a proposed reduction in both revenue and capital budgets.

4. Winter Service

The start to the winter season has been relatively quiet with below average levels of salt spread in both November and December. The forecast for the start of 2022 is indicating milder, damper conditions. The risk of a short, sharp winter event has not been discounted.

There remains a risk associated with availability of gritter drivers and the outbreak of the Omicron variant of Covid-19. A risk mitigation plan has been established to try to ensure adequate resources are available through the remainder of the season.

The team are continuing to review the management of known problem locations and drainage issues to reduce the risk to both the travelling public and gritter drivers.

Meg Booth

Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

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Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper

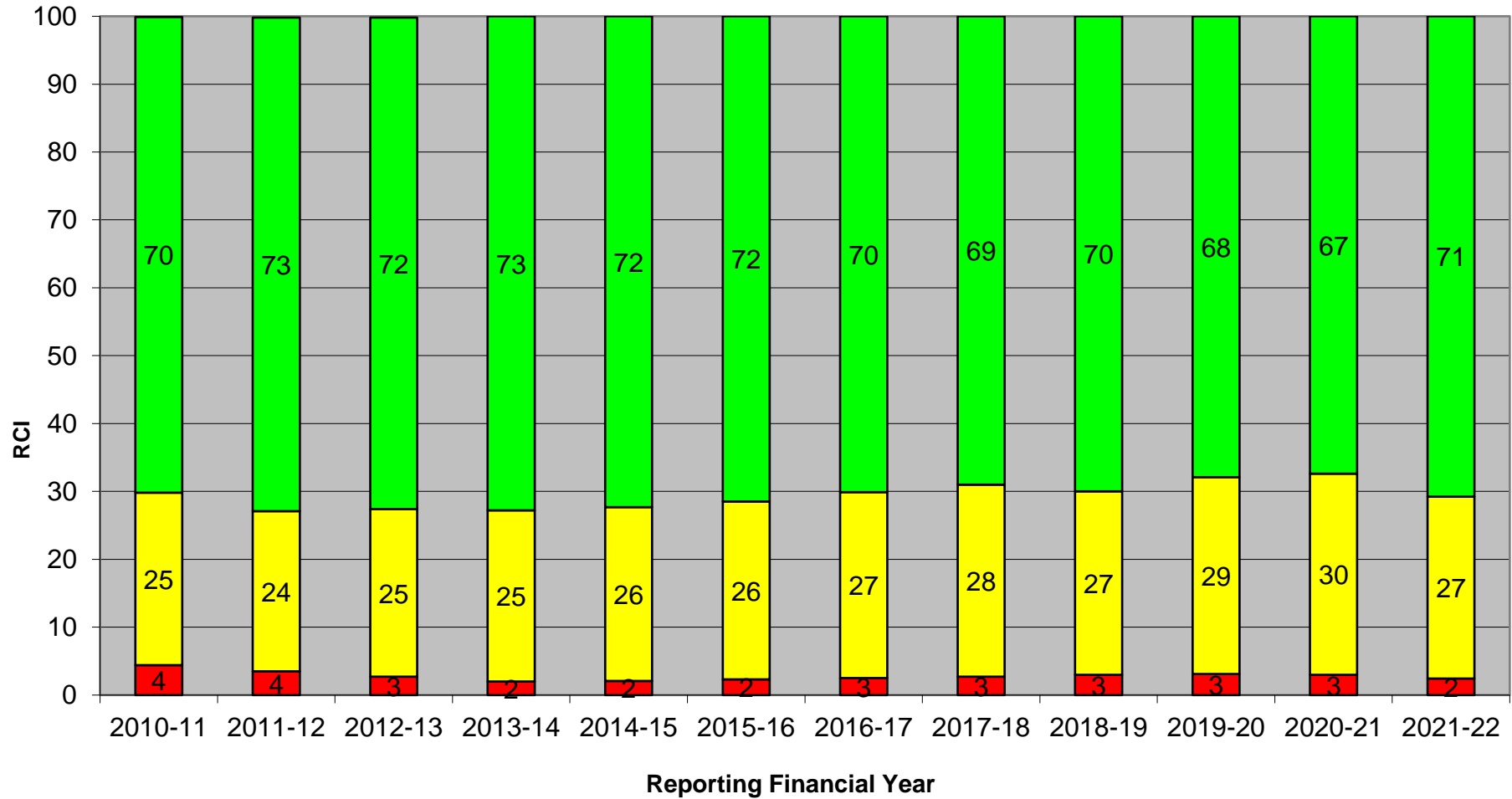
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File Reference

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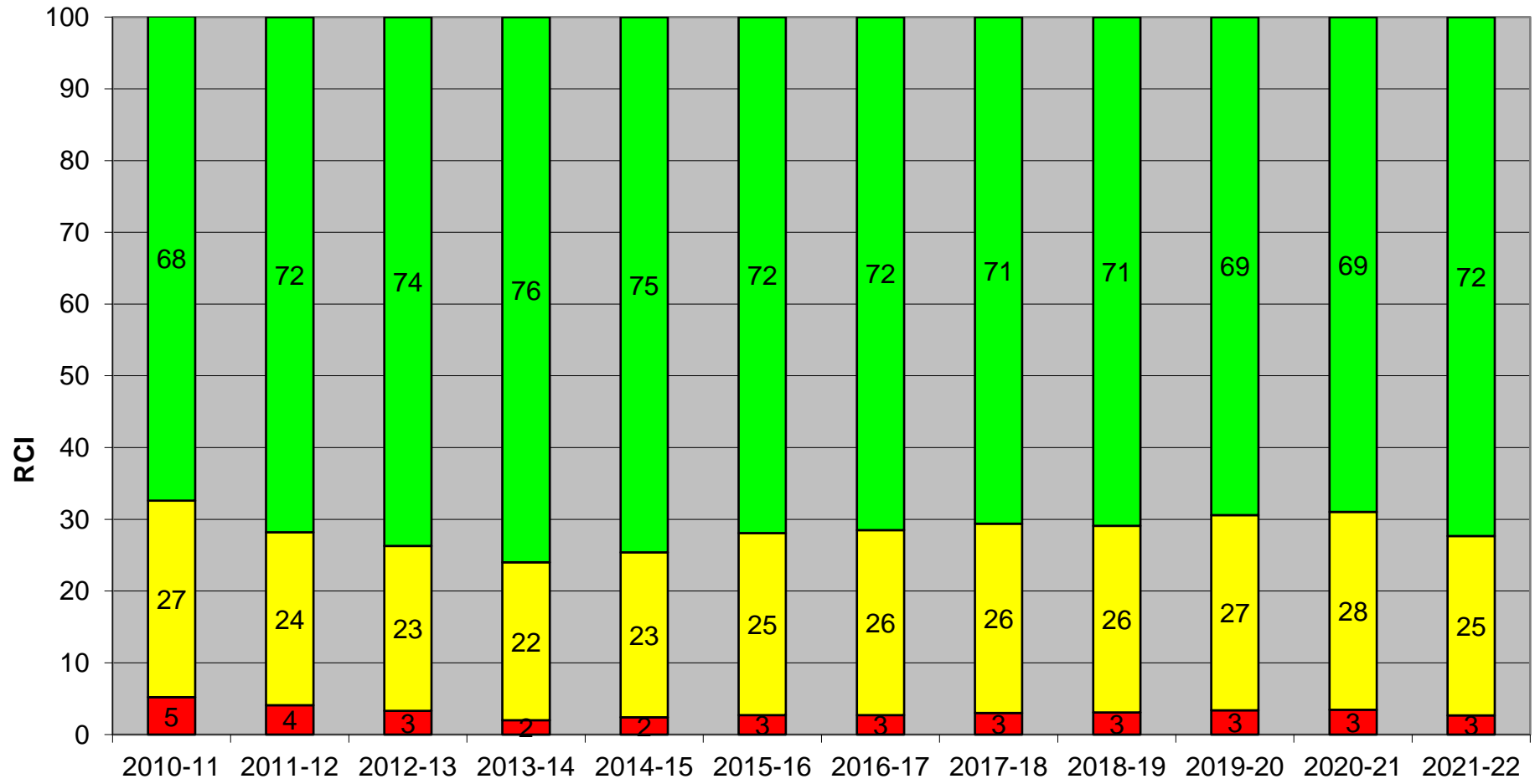
Highways Performance Dashboard – Final

**Appendix 1 to HIW/22/3
Devon A Class Road Condition Index (RCI) by Year**



■ RED: Plan maintenance soon
 ■ AMBER: Plan investigation soon
 ■ GREEN: Generally good condition

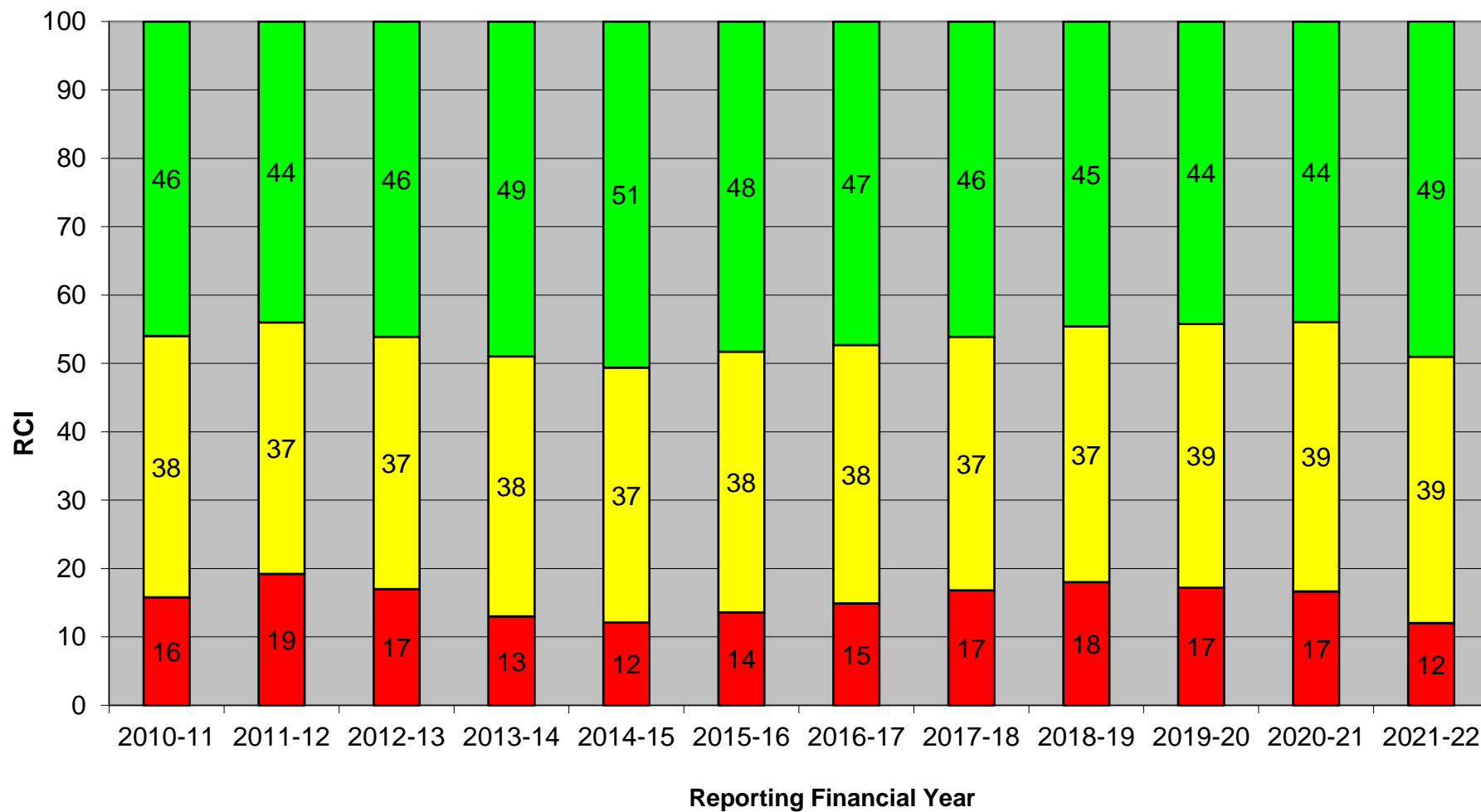
Devon B Class Road Condition Index (RCI) by Year



Reporting Financial Year

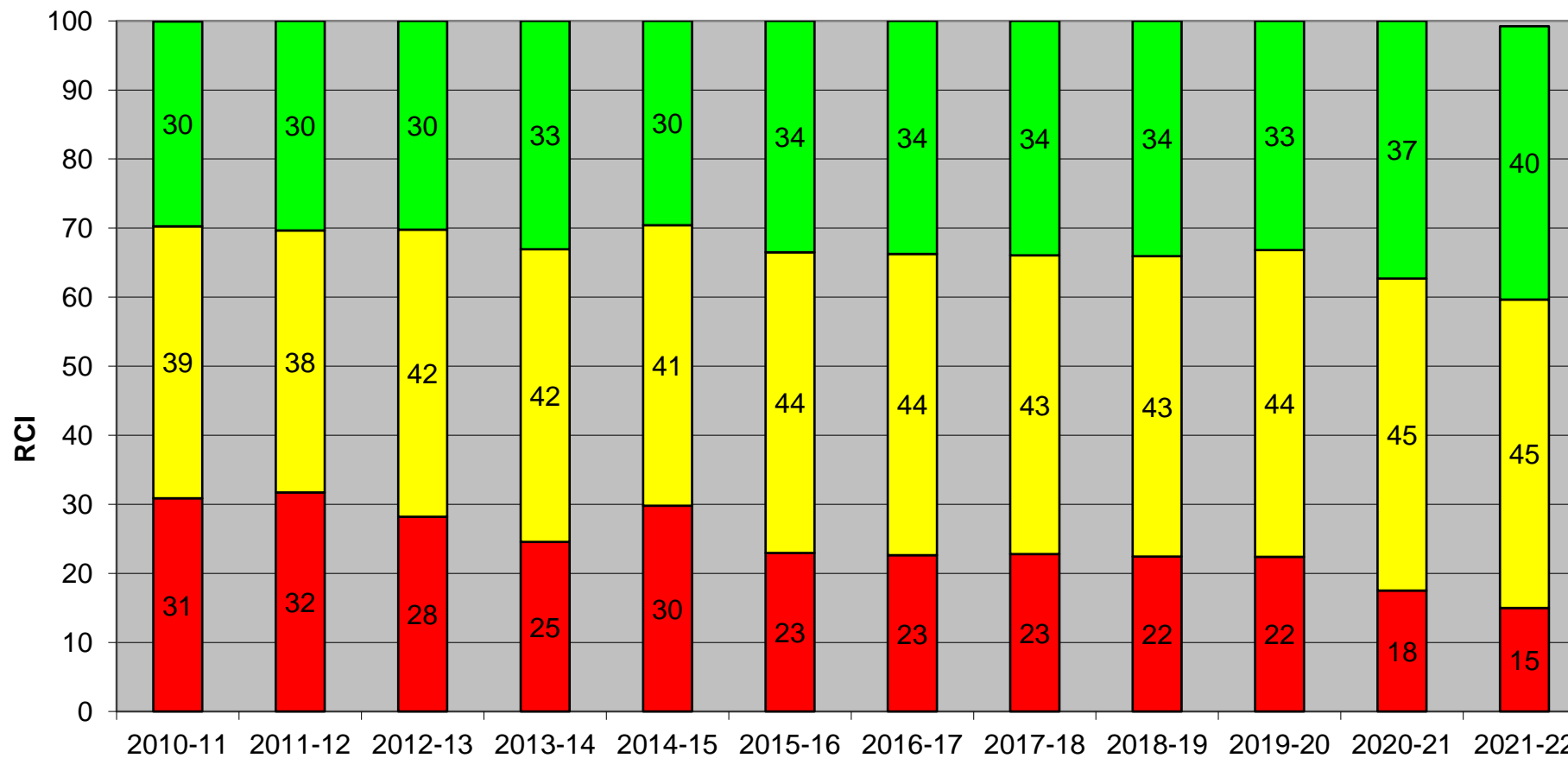
■ RED: Plan maintenance soon ■ AMBER: Plan investigation soon ■ GREEN: Generally good condition

Devon C Class Road Condition Index (RCI) by Year



■ RED: Plan maintenance soon ■ AMBER: Plan investigation soon ■ GREEN: Generally good condition

Devon Unclassified Roads Condition Index (RCI) by Year



Reporting Financial Year

■ RED: Plan maintenance soon
 ■ AMBER: Plan investigation soon
 ■ GREEN: Generally good condition

Appendix 2 to HIW/22/3

Number of potholes recorded across the Devon network per month/year

	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	Avg
April	3,489	9,782	3,741	6,505	3,904	5,484
May	4,329	6,339	3,344	4,764	4,248	4,605
June	3,293	5,120	3,713	5,179	5,743	4,610
July	3,148	5,225	2,719	4,040	4,301	3,887
August	3,352	4,423	2,041	3,071	3,845	3,346
September	2,831	3,378	2,746	3,297	2,874	3,025
October	3,750	3,137	3,013	2,465	2,547	2,982
November	4,316	3,434	3,931	3,349	2,697	3,545
December	3,766	3,533	3,393	2,465	2,727	3,177
January	7,408	5,770	6,694	5,181		6,263
February	7,687	5,121	5,270	5,619		5,924
March	8,523	6,706	7,884	6,190		7,326
Total	55,892	61,968	48,489	52,125	32,888	50,272

Appendix 3 to HIW/22/3

Gully Cleaning Programme

As of 12th December (69% through the financial year)

	Total Programmed	Gullies Attended	Gullies Cleaned	Gullies Left to clean	% Complete
Honiton	25,587	18,203	16,755	8,832	65%
Exeter	33,752	25,621	23,739	10,013	70%
Rydon	23,921	16,381	14,242	9,679	60%
South Hams	18,635	13,007	11,541	7,094	62%
Okehampton	15,329	13,098	12,571	2,758	82%
Merton	12,290	9,496	8,786	3,504	71%
South Molton	24,522	17,428	14,970	9,552	61%
	154,036	113,234	102,604	51,432	67%

Grips, Easements and Buddleholes Programme

As of 19th December (71% through the financial year)

	To be Cleaned	Cleaned	Left to Attend	Complete (%)	Programmed (m)	Cleaned (m)	Additional Cleaned (m)
South	12,719	8,210	4,509	65%	43,405	39,977	11,156
North	11,359	9,932	1,427	87%	27,087	29,154	3,122
West	14,940	10,948	3,992	73%	52,812	61,495	21,742
Torridge	24,435	18,250	6,185	75%	67,817	54,932	8,067
East	45,012	31,181	13,831	69%	115,080	79,828	4,393
	108,465	78,521	29,944	72%	306,201	265,385	48,481