



- > COLAS UK
- > PORTSMOUTH CC
- > ONGOING

Portsmouth Highways Management PFI Contract

An innovative and sustainable approach to highway maintenance

The Contract

In 2004 a £500m Highways Management PFI contract was signed between Ensign Highways Limited and Portsmouth City Council for a period of 25 years. Colas Limited were signed as the sub-contractor to carry out the works.

The project comprises of the rehabilitation of the highways within 5 years, known as the Core Investment Period (CIP) followed by a 20-year maintenance period.



The contract includes:

- > Daily maintenance and full management of the highways network
- > Routine and cyclic maintenance
- > Winter maintenance and emergencies
- > Street lighting and signing services
- > Street cleansing
- > Maintenance and management of structures
- > Arboriculture and landscape services
- > Surface drainage maintenance
- > Third party claims
- > Licences management and co-ordination with utilities

Highways

Monthly inspections are carried out resulting in over **100,000** defects including potholes, paving slabs and trip hazards being repaired to date.

Colas' depot has a salt barn which holds **950** tonnes of salt and during winter salting is carried out as needed.

Street Lighting and Illuminated Street Furniture

Ongoing maintenance includes structural testing, lamp replacement and the introduction of new LED's - making savings for the city.

Street Cleansing

Roads are cleaned on a daily cycle, with over **8,000** routes swept and cleaned each week.

Over **900** litterbins in the city are emptied daily. In the busiest areas up to 4 times a day to avoid overflow.

Colas work jointly with Portsmouth City Council and local schools, to combat dog fouling. Litterbins in the city are now dual purpose and dog bins are emptied 3 times a week, 52 weeks of the year.

Fallen leaves are swept and collected from October - December. The number of bags sent to the incinerator over the 14 years has been in excess of **350,000**.

Gullies and Drainage

There are in excess of **21,000** gullies/drains in the city all of which are cleaned over a 2-year programme as well as ad hoc attendances required for blockages. Colas has worked with Portsmouth City Council to improve the drainage systems over the past 13 years resulting in a significant decrease in the number of flooding reports.

Customer Enquiries, Claims and Complaints

Over the course of the contract, the number of customer enquiries, claims and complaints have reduced significantly. The annual National Highway & Transport (NHT) Survey, which canvasses public opinion on Highways and Transportation services across the UK, has seen Portsmouth ranked in the top 3 for services for 5 consecutive years. In 2016, Portsmouth ranked no. 1 in the UK in 11 categories including Condition of Highway, The Provision of Pavements and Provision of Drains.

Work carried out in the first 5 years

- > Resurfacing of 1,330,000m² of roads
- > Resurfacing of 445,000m² of pavements
- > Replacing 9,700 lamp columns
- > Works carried out on 49 Structures
- > Replaced and refurbished footbridges

Recycling

The PFI contract contributes to the reuse and recycling of materials from works that have been carried out. These included concrete, bricks, tiles, ceramics, metals and aggregates. Over **95%** of the materials collected from around the city are recycled.



New Interactive Website

In 2018 Colas developed and launched a new interactive website which allows residents to see where works are taking place and planned for, to report incidents and to apply for licences and permits. Alongside this is the launch of a Colas Portsmouth dedicated Twitter account to inform residents of activity.

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