

Report to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
Report submitted by: Director of Corporate Commissioning
Date Monday, 13 March 2017

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Proposed 2017/18 Highway Maintenance, Road Safety and Public Rights of Way New Starts Capital Programme
(Appendices 'A' - 'J' refer)

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Executive Summary

On 9 February 2017 Full Council gave approval for two grants from the Department for Transport (DfT) to be added to the 2017/18 Highways Block of the Capital programme comprising;

- £20.514 million to be used to develop the 2017/18 new starts highway maintenance capital programme.
- £1.718 million from the DfT's £250 million Pothole Action Fund to tackle potholes.

Approval was also given for the DfT Integrated Transport Block annual grant of £6.054million to be added to the 2017/18 Transport block of the Capital programme, providing funding for the following allocations:

- £0.500 million to address road safety issues.
- £0.250 million to address structural repairs on the Public Rights of Way network.
- £0.500 million to address Cycling issues.

A further £0.500 million was approved by Full Council for Road Safety to be funded from the previously approved Parish Buses allocation within the Vehicles Block of the Capital Programme. Proposals to allocate this funding and the Cycling allocation will be presented in future reports.

This report sets out at Appendix 'A' the criteria used to select projects for inclusion in the above new starts programmes. The proposed 2017/18 list of projects is detailed at Appendices 'B' to 'J'.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the provisions of Standing Order 25 have been complied with.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport is requested to;

- Approve the criteria for project selection set out at Appendix 'A'
- Approve the proposed 2017/18 list of projects set out at Appendices 'B' to 'J' relating to;
 - £20.514 million for highway maintenance
 - £0.500 million to address road safety issues
 - £0.250 million to address structural repairs on the Public Rights of Way network
 - £1.718m Pothole Action funding.
- Approve that further reports including proposals relating to the additional £0.500 million awarded for road safety projects and a draft Cycling Programme be brought forward for consideration in due course.

Background and Advice

On 9 February 2017 Full Council gave approval for two grants from the Department for Transport (DfT) to be added to the 2017/18 Highways Block of the Capital programme comprising;

- £20.514 million to be used to develop the 2017/18 new starts highway maintenance capital programme.
- £1.718 million from the DfT's £250 million Pothole Action Fund to tackle potholes.

The 2017/18 Transport funding also approved by Full Council includes the following allocations as detailed in 'The County Council's Re-profiled Capital Programme' approved by Cabinet on 6 October 2016;

- 0.500 million to address road safety issues.
- £0.250 million to address structural repairs on the Public Rights of Way network.

A further £0.500 million was approved by Full Council for Road Safety, to be funded from the previously approved Parish Buses allocation within the Vehicles Block of the Capital Programme. Proposals to allocate this funding and the Cycling allocation will be presented in future reports.

The following table sets out the proposed 2017/18 capital programme allocations:

| Asset Class | Allocation |
|---|-------------------|
| A,B,C Roads | £8m |
| Urban Unclassified Roads (including pre patching) | £1.314m |
| Rural Unclassified Roads (including pre patching) | £1.050m |
| Footways | £3m |
| Drainage | £1m |

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Street Lighting | £1m |
| Traffic Signals | £0.100m |
| Bridges | £3m |
| Structural Defects | £2m |
| Advanced Design | £0.050m |
| Total | £20.514 m |

| Asset Class | Allocation |
|--|-------------------|
| Road Safety Projects | £0.500m |
| (Additional Road Safety funding allocated at Full Council 9 th Feb 17. This will be subject to a further report | £0.500m |
| Public Rights of Way | £0.250m |

| Additional funding | Allocation |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| DfT Pothole Action Fund | £1.718m |

The criteria proposed for developing the 2017/18 highway maintenance programme, and set out at Appendix 'A' is aligned with the Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP) and will help ensure that a more proactive, preventative intervention maintenance programme is developed, rather than reacting to the deterioration of the road network.

Furthermore, a Highways Information Strategy has been developed in line with The Highway Asset Management Framework to ensure reliable information on the type, number and condition of highway assets. This is required to ensure sufficient quality data for lifecycle planning and maintenance options, scheme selection and works prioritisation. Provision has therefore been made within the ABC, Unclassified and footways programmes to undertake surveys and coring activity to improve our data collection in order to ensure that the 2018/19 highway maintenance programme is underpinned by a robust and up to date evidence base. The total allocation for the work is £0.350 million.

Additionally, due to the process of developing drainage projects which may include the need for detailed design it is proposed that the £1 million allocation is profiled over two years.

It is proposed that the Road Safety and Public Rights of Way allocations be made on a countywide basis. Due to the fact that the road safety programme will require design and consultation it is likely that the programme will be delivered over two years, 2017/18 and 2018/19. Proposals to utilise the additional funding of £0.500 million made available by Full Council on 9 February and the £0.500 million allocated to Cycling will be the subject of future reports.

With regard to the additional £1.718 million of pothole funding that was added to the capital programme by Full Council on 9 February 2017, it is expected that each authority will commit to target these funds on permanently fixing potholes or by

stopping them forming in the first place. Activities can include permanent pothole repairs or resurfacing to help prevent potholes from forming. This funding must complement rather than displace planned highway maintenance expenditure for 2017/18.

Based on objective data and in line with the use of the previous DfT Pothole Action Fund allocation it is proposed that the £1.718 million of funding allocated to the county council, be allocated to prioritise permanent pothole repairs across Lancashire on sections of roads in a condition which currently require the most regular visits to keep them safe and serviceable. These locations will be ranked on a countywide rather than district basis. An analysis of data has identified an increase in the number of repeat visits to repair potholes on the unclassified network. It is therefore proposed that this funding is directed at the unclassified network

This approach has two positive outcomes. Firstly, asset management principles have been applied in accordance with the Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme by proactively identifying and carrying out permanent repairs and secondly the maintenance liability and costs incurred by repeated visits to known failing sites will be reduced.

The proposed treatments include permanent repairs including patching, machine patching, surface dressing and resurfacing depending on the nature of the problem.

The proposed list of projects is set out at Appendices 'B' to 'J' for approval.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

There is a risk that some of the schemes set out at Appendices 'B' to 'J' may not be delivered or could be delayed due to changes to estimated costs, other priorities emerging within year as a result of bad weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

The delivery of the proposed programmes is also dependant on the 2016/17 highway maintenance, road safety and public rights of way outturn positions which will not be known until Spring 2017. The programme may be subject to change after this date.

Due to the fact that the road safety and drainage programmes will require design and consultation it is likely that these programmes will be delivered over two years, 2017/18 and 2018/19, as profiled below. In the event that work can be programmed earlier than anticipated then it is proposed that funding is brought forward as required.

Financial

It is proposed that the following projects are added to the Highway Block of the Capital Programme and funded as follows;

- £20.514 million 2017/18 New Starts Highway Maintenance Programme (Appendices 'B' to 'G') to be funded from DfT 2017/18 highway maintenance capital grant.
- £1.718 million 2017/18 new starts Pothole Action Fund programme (Appendix 'J') to be funded from the 2017/18 DfT Pothole Action Fund grant.

Due to the process of developing drainage projects which may include the need for detailed design it is proposed that the £1 million allocation is profiled over two years;

- 2017/18 - £0.250 million
- 2018/19 - £0.750 million

It is proposed that the following projects are added to the Transport Block of the Capital Programme and funded from the 2017/18 Integrated Transport Block grant

- £0.5 million Road Safety Programme (Appendix 'H')
- £0.250 million Public Rights of Way Programme (Appendix 'I')

Due to the process of developing road safety projects which may include the need for detailed design and consultation to be undertaken it is proposed that the £0.5 million road safety allocation be profiled over two years;

- 2017/18 - £0.100 million
- 2018/19 - £0.400 million

List of Background Papers

| Paper | Date | Contact/Tel |
|---|-----------------|----------------------------|
| The County Council's Re-Profiled capital programme for 2016/17 to 2018/19 and later years | 6 October 2016 | Dave Gorman/(01772) 534261 |
| The County Council's Budget - Report to Full Council | 9 February 2017 | |