

## Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 10 August 2017

### Report of the Director of Corporate Commissioning

**Part I**

Electoral Division affected:  
All

### Additional Highway Maintenance Funding - Proposed Apportionment Criteria

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#### Executive Summary

On 20 July 2017, Full Council approved revisions to the 2017/18 Budget that included additional capital and revenue funding for highway maintenance. This report requests approval of the proposed criteria that will be used to apportion this additional funding.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the provisions of Standing Order No. 25 have been complied with.

#### Recommendation

The Cabinet is recommended to approve the proposed criteria as detailed in the report to apportion:

- (i) £5 million of additional highway maintenance capital funding approved by Full Council on 20 July 2017 comprising:
  - Highways Projects and Resources (Planned Works) - £3 million.
  - Responsive/Reactive Maintenance (Minor works) - £1 million.
  - Preventative Defect Repairs - £1 million.
  
- (ii) The additional highway maintenance revenue funding approved by Full Council on 20 July 2017 comprising:
  - Flood Risk (gully cleaning) – 2017/18- £0.300 million / 2018/19 - £0.300 million.
  - Public Realm Improvements – 2017/18 - £0.330 million / 2018/19 - £0.600 million.

## **Background and Advice**

On 20 July 2017, Full Council approved revisions to the 2017/18 Budget that included additional capital and revenue funding for highways maintenance. This report requests approval of the proposed criteria that will be used to apportion this additional funding as detailed below;

### **Additional Approved Capital Funding**

#### **i. Highways Projects and Resources (Planned Works) - £3 million**

The County Council's approved Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP) identifies the key strategic priorities of the County Council as the local highway authority and sets out how the County Council will manage its transport assets up to 2029/30.

Recent analysis suggests that this investment strategy will result in;

- Condition targets for the classified (A,B&C) network achieved earlier than envisaged.
- An overall improvement in the rural unclassified road network.
- A deterioration in the urban unclassified network (residential streets).

It is therefore proposed that this allocation be used to improve the condition of the urban unclassified network. A detailed list of schemes will be presented to Cabinet for approval in September 2017.

#### **ii. Responsive/Reactive Maintenance (Minor works) - £1 million**

It is proposed that this allocation be used to respond more quickly to enquiries and complaints about poor highway infrastructure conditions which could be resolved with minor repair works. This could include, for example, carrying out surface repairs at sites where minor works will suffice and where a more substantial capital scheme is not planned for a number of years. These works will be monitored and analysed and the information used to inform the TAMP in order to influence future programmes of work as appropriate.

#### **iii. Preventative Defect Repairs - £1 million**

It is proposed that this allocation be used to undertake minor patching or other repair works in areas which have not have reached the approved intervention level but are likely to deteriorate in the foreseeable future. These works will be confined to areas where a traffic management system is already in place to enable intervention level defects to be repaired. Information gathered from this initiative will also be utilised to inform the TAMP and influence future planned resurfacing programmes as appropriate.

It is also proposed to utilise part of the allocation to pilot a 'find and fix' repair initiative and a range of repair methods will be used in this regard including the application of velocity patching.

## **Additional Approved Revenue Funding**

### **i. Flood Risk (gully cleaning) – 2017/18- £0.300 million / 2018/19 - £0.300 million**

In order to alleviate flood risk it is proposed that this funding is used to deploy additional contracted gully/jetter wagons to deal with reactive gully and pipe clearance, allowing County Council gully wagons to concentrate on the cyclic gully cleaning programme without interruption. Following recent years of flooding events it is also proposed to introduce cyclic trash screen clearing/maintenance to ensure all piped and culverted water courses are free from debris thus allowing the free flow of water. This initiative will include some reactive cleansing following heavy rain events.

### **ii. Public Realm Improvements – 2017/18 - £0.330 million / 2018/19 - £0.600 million**

It is proposed that this allocation be used to enable enhanced 'green space' works to be undertaken with the main emphasis on increasing grass cutting frequencies. It is anticipated that outer core flail cutting will increase from 2 to 4 cuts per year and inner core amenity grass cutting from 5 to 8 cuts per year. However, as the grass cutting season is already underway and time limited, it might not be possible to achieve the proposed level of cuts in some areas.

It is also proposed to reintroduce full cyclic weed spraying to all areas which will replace the practice of spot treatments which is currently undertaken. Side dressing of kerbs/verges on inner core amenity areas and the clearing and maintenance of certain planted beds and borders in city and town centre areas.

## **Consultations**

N/A

## **Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

## **Risk management**

The proposed criteria for apportioning the additional funding will ensure that the capital and revenue allocations are maximised by addressing highway maintenance priorities.

## **Financial**

The capital and revenue proposals will be funded from the additional highway maintenance resources approved by Full Council on 20 July 2017 which comprise;  
Capital Funding;

- Highway Projects - £3 million
- Responsive / Reactive maintenance (minor Works) – £1 million
- Defect repairs - £1 million

## Revenue Resources

- Flood Risk (gully cleaning) – 2017/18- £0.300 million / 2018/19 - £0.300 million
- Public Realm Improvements – 2017/18 - £0.330 million / 2018/19 - £0.600 million

## List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
The Environment Directorate's Draft Transport Asset Management Plan 2015-2030	10 June 2014	Dave Gorman/(01772) 534261

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A