

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 6 July 2023

Report of the Director of Highways and Transport

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Delivering better services;

National Productivity Infrastructure Fund

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Brief Summary

The proposed reallocation of funds from underspending projects within the National Productivity Infrastructure Fund programme to other projects. One of those is within the existing National Productivity Infrastructure Fund programme and the remaining two sit outside, but are still in line with, the fund's outcomes.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to approve:

- (i) The reallocation of £432,000 to the existing National Productivity Infrastructure Fund project – A583 Riversway & Strand Road Corridors.
- (ii) The reallocation of £75,000 to provide extra funding to certain capital traffic signal upgrade projects.
- (iii) The use of £294,000 for a contribution towards a junction modernisation and installation of red light/speed on green enforcement cameras at the "5 Ways/A59 junction/Hayfield Junction", Ormskirk.

Detail

The Department for Transport awarded the council £4.655m through the National Productivity Infrastructure Fund in 2017/18. Following a series of prioritisation



exercises the funding was allocated to a programme of different projects aimed at tackling congestion and pinch points on the highway network. Those projects have either been delivered; partially completed given that other funding streams for much larger projects (such as Transforming City Funds) have come along; or design work is still progressing. This has led to a review of the National Productivity Infrastructure Fund programme which has shown that a total of £801,000 can be freed up from the overall programme. It is proposed that £432,000 of that be reallocated within the National Productivity Infrastructure Fund programme to support the re-scoped A583 Riversway & Strand Road Corridors project. It is also proposed that the remaining £369,000 is allocated to other projects outside of the National Productivity Infrastructure Fund programme. This would be to improve road safety and traffic flow at the 5 Ways/A59 Junction and the Hayfield Junction, Ormskirk; and provide additional funding for the traffic signal capital renewal projects.

Below is a summary of the projects within the National Productivity Infrastructure Fund programme and the funds that will be released along with a summary of the projects where it is proposed that the funds be reallocated.

M6 Junction 31 and Swallow Hotel Junction Improvements, Preston

Starting budget £700,000 – A technology review study has been completed resulting in a small-scale improvement at the Swallow Hotel junction which has been implemented. There is also a much better understanding of pragmatic and affordable changes at the M6 junction 31 signalised roundabouts. As a result, it is estimated that a further spend of £60,091.88 is required to complete this project therefore freeing up £597,429.91.

Vivary Way North Valley Road Improvements, Colne

Starting budget £1.137m – This project is now complete apart from some minor additional remedial works which requires a budget of £18,484.72. Therefore, this will free up £79,429.41.

M65 Junction 13 Eastern Roundabout, Preston

Starting budget £100,000 – Following a review study, a budget allocation of £13,033.55 is needed to complete the changes therefore freeing £50,000 from the starting budget.

Design of M65 Growth Corridor Improvements at Junctions 8, 9, 10 ,13 & North Valley Road/Vivary Way

Starting budget £126,000 – This concept study and pipeline design work is now complete freeing up £74,959.40.

Ringway, Preston

Starting budget £200,000 – This was to improve the Ringway corridor and funds were spent to develop the concept design of the Transforming City Funds, Transforming Ringway project. £120,856.30 remains and was previously identified as being allocated to the Transforming City Funds programme as part of the county council's local contribution.

A583 Riversway & Strand Road Corridors

Starting Budget £950,000 – This funding was aimed at improving traffic flow through the docks area of Preston in anticipation of the Preston Western Distributor Scheme



and A582 improvements. Some development and implementation has taken place but due to the age and condition of the signal equipment the hoped for benefits cannot be achieved. Therefore, the following projects are now proposed: -

1. *Strand Road junctions and Portway/Watery Lane* – The proposal is to replace the old signal controllers and equipment to allow the technology that provides the integration and signal coordination required. Cost estimate £351,000.
2. *Riversway/Nelson Way* – Design work is progressing for a significant junction improvement including new active travel provision to link the Guild Wheel with Preston City Council Levelling Up Fund funded active travel and Ashton Park investments. Cost estimate £425,000.
3. *Riversway/Pedders Way* – Design work is progressing to upgrade the junction including improved pedestrian facilities and improved public transport routing along Pedders Lane. Cost estimate £375,000.

The remaining budget for this project is £768,570.09. This will be increased by £432,429.91 to give a remaining budget of £1,201,000. This would then be split into the three sub projects listed above.

Bluebell Way Corridor, Preston

Starting budget £200,000 – Original plans to help reduce delays on this corridor remain by improving the signal timings and this project will continue with the current remaining budget of £120,975.84.

Burnley Junction 10 Westgate to Active Way Corridor

Starting budget £150,000 – Original plans to help reduce delays on this corridor remain by improving the signal timings with current remaining budget of £137,798.10.

Traffic Signal Capital Renewal Programme

These projects are currently in the county council's traffic signal capital renewal programme but following initial design work this allocation is insufficient to complete the required changes at these important junctions. The proposal is to use £75,000 from the released National Productivity Infrastructure Fund funds on the following projects:

- *Tom Benson Way/Tulketh Brow Junction, Preston* – budget allocated was £50,000.00 but an additional £35,000 required.
- *Blackbull Lane/Sharoe Green Lane Junction, Preston* – budget allocated £50,000 but an additional £29,959.40 required.
- *M61 Junction 8 Slip Road Junction, Chorley* – budget allocated £60,000 but a further £10,000 required.

A59 Ormskirk - County Road/A570 Southport Road (5 Ways junction) and Hayfield Road/County Road

In 2022 Cabinet approved the award of a contract to Jenoptik for the supply, installation and ongoing operational and maintenance costs for a red light combined with speed on green camera enforcement system at these two junctions. Following more detailed accident analysis, further liaison with Lancashire Constabulary (which will operate the cameras), detailed design and specification, the total cost for the project is now estimated at £533,000. The budget allocation is £433,000. Therefore,



an additional £100,000 is required. It is proposed that this will come from the released National Productivity Infrastructure funds. In addition, there is also a need to improve the signal infrastructure and road markings so that safety and capacity of the junction can be increased. This will also contribute to the county council's Bus Service Improvement Plan and wider transport objectives for Ormskirk. A summary of the changes is listed below:

- *Junction Signal Infrastructure* – Changeout the end-of-life signal equipment with energy efficient controllers, Light Emitting Diode lamps and modern vehicle detection that will reduce future revenue burdens.
- *Junction Operation* – Modernise the traffic signal timing control systems looking for efficiencies to reduce delays for all users and improve safety. This will include technology for Bus Priority in line with county wide Bus Service Improvement Plan work.
- *Junction Layout* – Consider small changes to the road markings.

The remaining £194,000 from the National Productivity Infrastructure Fund programme would contribute to the cost of these works.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The proposals will ensure that projects aimed at reducing congestion, improving safety and ensuring effective network management can be delivered in line with the aims of the National Productivity Investment Fund grant award.

Financial

The proposals are all contained within the funding allocation received as part of the approved National Productivity Investment Fund. The proposals also ensure that any surplus money is used on projects which are in line with the aims of the National Productivity Investment Fund.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

