

Urgent Decision Taken on Behalf of Cabinet

Report to the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

Report submitted by: Director of Strategy and Performance

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Delivering better services;

Network North Additional Highway Maintenance Capital Allocations for 2023/24

Contact for further information:

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Brief Summary

On 4 October 2023, the government announced £8.3 billion of additional highways maintenance funding over the period 2023 to 2033 for highway maintenance funding. For the financial year 2023/24 a further £3.661m has been allocated for Lancashire in addition to the funds already approved for the Highway Block of the Capital Programme.

This report recommends approval for the Department for Transport's additional allocation for Highway Maintenance for 2023/24, that is £3.661 million, to the highway block of the capital programme.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the provisions of Standing Order C21 have been complied with. Compliance with Standing Orders C19 and C20 was not possible due to the funds only being announced on 4 October 2023 and details confirmed by Department for Transport on 29 November, with recommendations for apportionment of the funds not being decided in time for December Cabinet.

Reason for Urgency

This decision is urgent and cannot await the next meeting of Cabinet on 18 January 2024. The reason for this is to ensure that the works are programmed in for 2023/24 and that work starts immediately in January to ensure priority areas are addressed.



This decision is therefore being taken on behalf of Cabinet by the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order C16(1).

Recommendation

The Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport are asked to agree that:

- (i) The Department for Transport's additional £3.661m funding announced in October 2023, be added to the Highway Block of the Capital Programme.
- (ii) The additional funding be allocated as follows:
 - a. £50,054 for Roundabout surfacing
 - b. £836,208 for the Localised Deterioration Fund
 - c. £1,900,000 for Drainage
 - d. £874,738 for Street Lighting Column Replacement.
- (iii) Authorise the Director of Strategy & Performance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, to approve:
 - a. The Localised Deterioration Fund schemes to be delivered from the additional funding.
 - b. The roundabout surfacing schemes to be delivered from the additional funding and from the additional £5.122m approved by Cabinet in April and May 2023.

This decision should be implemented immediately for the purposes of Standing Order C29 as any delay could adversely affect the execution of the County Council's responsibilities. The reason for this is to ensure work starts immediately in January to ensure priority areas are addressed.

Detail

Cabinet approved the 2023/24 Highway Block of the Capital Programme in March 2023. In the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Spring Budget 2023 an additional £200 million for highways maintenance for the financial year 2023/24 was announced, of which £5.122m had been made available for Lancashire. Cabinet, in April 2023, approved the additional funds to be added to the Highway Block of the Capital Programme and Cabinet in May 2023 agreed the apportionment of those funds.

On 4 October 2023, the government announced £8.3 billion of additional highways maintenance funding over the period 2023 to 2033. For the financial year 2023/24 a further £3.661m has been allocated for Lancashire in addition to the funds already approved for the Highway Block of the Capital Programme, described above; with a further £3.661m additional funds for 2024/25.

The additional £5.122m provided earlier in the year addressed priorities for surface dressing and preventative find and fix, both of which are seasonal. It is proposed to



spend the further additional £3.661m on priority areas, as described below, which are areas which can be delivered in quarter 4 of the financial year 2023/24. A Cabinet report in March 2024 covering the Highway Maintenance Capital Programme for 2024/25 will also include the apportionment of the additional money provided for financial year 2024/25.

The priority areas proposed as being able to be delivered in quarter 4 are-

The Transport Asset Management Plan that was published in 2014 has mainly focused on a preventative strategy to decrease the deterioration of the carriageway network. To this end, long stretches of the carriageway network over the past eight years have been surface dressed. However, surface dressing is not a suitable treatment for the roundabout sections. A surfacing programme for priority schemes been developed for roundabouts on strategic routes that have shown the most deterioration and are key to the smooth running of the strategic network. It is proposed spend the unallocated funds from the additional £5.122m approved by Cabinet in April and May 2023 as well as an additional £50,054 to deliver surfacing schemes for roundabouts.

Localised Deterioration Fund schemes are small schemes determined on a countywide prioritisation based on condition, the number of defects, repeat visits to defects, claims and complaints received, along with the route strategic significance. Complementing the ABC road and Urban Residential Unclassified resurfacing and surface dressing programmes, these schemes allow in year assessment and delivery of schemes that have shown continued deterioration.

It is proposed also to provide additional funds to the drainage capital programme to support works at known problem sites; work being prioritised based on the risk of flooding and potential impact on property and highway. There are a large number of drainage projects that have been identified that are currently unfunded. It is proposed to apportion the funds to help address the outstanding drainage schemes in each area. This is a priority to help reducing the risk of further flooding and damage.

The Transport Asset Management Plan Phase 2 Year 3 - Data Refresh 2023 report presented to Cabinet in September 2023 showed that Street lighting column replacement programme is unable to keep pace with the aging stock profile and the number of street lighting columns over 40 years old continues to grow. It is therefore proposed to increase funding for street lighting column replacement to support the replacement work.

A Decision is sought as set out in the Recommendation.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:



Risk management

The schemes proposed are aligned with the Transport Asset Management Plan approach and delivering them will help reduce the risks of not being able to maintain the progress already made in Phase 1 of the Transport Asset Management Plan in improving the ABC network, through preventative treatment, and maintain it in a good condition through phase 2 of Transport Asset Management Plan.

Financial Risks

There is a risk that some of the detailed highway and transport programmes/projects may not be delivered or could be delayed due to changes to estimated costs, other priorities emerging within year because of bad weather or other unforeseen circumstances. In those instances changes will be made to the remainder of the programme, by the delegation in this report to ensure works completed fit within the funding envelope.

It is likely that the schemes funded from these additional monies will not all be completed within 2023/24 and that works will continue into the financial year 2024/25.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
N/A		



Urgent Decision Taken on behalf of Cabinet: Declarations

Leader of the Council

Network North Additional Highway Maintenance Capital Allocations for 2023/24

Original recommendation, as set out in the report, approved without amendment. Yes

Original recommendation amended and decision as follows: No

I have a pecuniary/non-pecuniary interest in this matter. No

If an interest is declared please give details below:



.....
Leader of the Council

22 December 2023

Chief Officer

I certify that this is an appropriate and accurate record within the terms of Standing Order C30(2) and (3) of the decision taken by the Cabinet Member.

Andy Milroy

.....
Democratic Services Manager

22 December 2023

This decision is to be taken by more than one Cabinet Member and all relevant Cabinet Members must be in agreement with the decision



Urgent Decision Taken on behalf of Cabinet: Declarations

Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

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Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

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Chief Officer

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22 December 2023

*Delete as appropriate

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