

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

PORTFOLIO HOLDER DELEGATED DECISION

By

County Councillor Phyl Davies

Portfolio Holder for Highways, Recycling and Assets

July 2018

**REPORT AUTHOR: Adrian Jervis
Acting Head of Highways, Transport and Recycling**

SUBJECT: Highway infrastructure Capital Programme 2018 - 2019

REPORT FOR: Decision

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report outlines proposals for the allocation of capital funding for the Highways service area in line with the budget allocations in the Council's 2018-19 Budget Book.

2.0 Proposal

2.1 To allocate capital expenditure as set out in Appendix A.

3.0 Options Considered/Available

3.1 The backlog of work across the highway network exceeds £40 million. The range of options for allocating expenditure across work categories is therefore considerable.

3.2 Schemes put forward for consideration within each category are prioritised in accordance with established scheme ranking systems where applicable or using the established principles of the systems to help ensure allocations are on a needs basis. Candidate schemes are identified from routine inspections, stakeholder raised issues (e.g. public, Town & Community Councils) as well as those put forward for consideration by County Councillors through liaison between Members and Highways Grounds and Street Scene (HGSS) Managers.

4.0 Preferred Choice and Reasons

4.1 The preferred choice is set out in Appendix A (proposed income and expenditure) and is considered to represent those categories with the highest need.

4.2 The highway core funding of £1.5 million will be allocated to highway strengthening (resurfacing), town centre footways, bridge strengthening, structures major maintenance, drainage, remedial earthworks, road safety and traffic management.

4.3 The road safety and traffic management allocation will continue to deliver schemes previously approved by the relevant shire committee

as prioritised through the approved ranking system. Newly promoted schemes will be approved on the same bases under the revised constitutional arrangements after the cessation of the Shire Committees.

- 4.4 The council has made available funding of £1.12 million for the structural maintenance of roads to mitigate the effects of reduced revenue funding. This will be targeted at prioritised sites throughout the county.
- 4.5 As part of the Medium Term Financial Plan, Cabinet at their meeting of the 7th February 2017 approved budget of £3.95m each year for three years, totalling an investment in the highways infrastructure of £11.85m. This will be the second year of the investment and will continue to be targeted at improving the condition of the highway network.
- 4.6 Welsh Government have made available a £30 million Local Authority Roads Refurbishment Grant for 2017-18 with an allocation for Powys of £2.371 million. The grant is a one off discretionary additional payment which can be recovered by Welsh Government if not used for approved purposes.
- 4.7 In light of the additional Welsh Government funding and the recent bad weather the final assessment of schemes within the Highway Strengthening (Resurfacing) category is still to be completed.
- 4.8 A specific allocation of £280,800 has been made for Estates Enhancement. It is planned to target this at footways in higher density residential estates and to support this with an additional allocation from the core funding over the next three financial years.
- 4.9 It is recommended that delegation for the development and approval of detailed scheme lists within each category be given to the Head of Service for Highways Transport and Recycling within budget allocations in accordance with asset management principles.
- 4.10 It is proposed that the moratorium on major schemes continues in order to focus on investment in the existing infrastructure. Major schemes are defined as those which make significant alterations and/or improvements to the highway infrastructure that are in excess of a £50,000 limit as previously agreed by Members. Such schemes will therefore only be considered if they unlock significant regeneration potential or are primarily funded through external sources. Any such proposals would require approval through Cabinet or Council.

5. Impact Assessment

5.1 There is no impact assessment required.

6.0 Corporate Improvement Plan

6.1 The Plan sets out the vision, values and principles for the Council and provides a framework for delivering services.

6.2 The plan's guiding principles are based on the well-being of future generations. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the nation. The draft Well-being assessment 2016 demonstrates the significance of investment in the highway network.

6.3 The Powys Well-being Assessment asked consultees to consider 32 topics and select those that most concerned them. They were also asked to choose the five topics that they would consider priorities to be taken forward into a Well-being plan for Powys. In both cases "Infrastructure – roads, broadband etc" and "Travelling around Powys" were in the top five. Further information can be found in: 'Towards 2040, The Powys Well-being Engagement Report' and 'Towards 2040, The Powys Well-being Plan'.

7.0 Local Member(s)

7.1 Local Members are able to feed opinions and priorities through their HGSS Manager for consideration during the development of the scheme programmes.

8.0 Other Front Line Services

8.1 Not applicable for this report.

9.0 Communications

9.1 The Communications Manager comments: The report is of public interest and requires proactive communication action using news release and appropriate social media to publicise the report and decision.

10.0 Support Services (Legal, Finance, HR, ICT, BPU)

10.1 The Solicitor for Highways notes the programme and has no overall concerns. Specific issues may arise as schemes develop which may require specific legal input.

10.2 The Capital and Financial Planning Accountant can confirm that The Transport and Highways Portfolio has a budget of £16.38m for 2018/19 financial year of which £9.22m is allocated to (G70/G720) Highways and Structural Maintenance works. The entire budget has identifiable funding sources and is part of the Council's 5-year Capital Investment Strategy which was approved by Council on 22 April 2018. There are no further financial implications with the approval of the recommendations at this stage. The Finance team will continue to

monitor the project as part of the monthly budget monitoring process and report any exceptions to Council/Cabinet.

11.0 Scrutiny

11.1 This report has not been scrutinised.

12.0 Statutory Officers

12.1 The Head of Financial Services (Acting S151 Officer) notes the comments made by the Capital and Financial Planning Accountant.

12.2 The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report.

13.0 Members' Interests

13.1 The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If the Portfolio Holder has an interest he/she should declare the interest, complete the relevant notification form and refer the matter to Cabinet for decision.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
1. That the funding proposals outlined in Appendix A are approved.	To enable delivery of infrastructure investment to protect council assets.
2. Delegate approval to the Head of Service for Highways Transport and Recycling to determine and approve a prioritised list of schemes within overall budget allocations in Appendix A in accordance with asset management principles. (Para 4.9)	To ensure flexibility in programming works having regard to priorities whilst ensuring equity of allocation.
3. To continue the moratorium on major schemes within these budget allocations.	To focus investment in the existing infrastructure.

Relevant Policy (ies):	
Within Policy:	Y / N
Within Budget:	Y / N

Relevant Local Member(s):	n/a
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Head of Highways, Transport and Recycling
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	Relevant financial year

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Background Papers used to prepare Report:

Budget book
Highways Asset Management Plan
Powys County Council Constitution
Towards 2040, The Powys Well-being Engagement Report
Towards 2040, The Powys Well-being Plan.