

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

PORTFOLIO HOLDER DELEGATED DECISION

By

County Councillor Phyl Davies

Portfolio Holder for Highways, Recycling and Assets

March 2019

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

SUBJECT: Highway Infrastructure Capital Programme 2019 - 2024

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 2019-24 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 continues to exceed £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 continue for the next five years and will be allocated to schemes including highway strengthening (resurfacing), surface dressing, 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 of £75k funded from the core funding 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 continued funding of £1.12 million in 2019/2020 for the structural maintenance of roads to mitigate the effects of reduced revenue funding. This will be targeted at prioritised sites throughout the county. The funding will rise to £1.5 million from 2020/2021 to 2023/2024.
- 4.5 Council at their meeting of the 7th March 2019 approved funding of £3.95 million each year for the period 2019/2020 to 2023/2024 as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan to support delivery of the HAMP. This reaffirms the final year of the previous approval by Cabinet at their meeting of the 7th February 2017 together with additional funding of £3.95m each year for following four years, totalling an investment in the highways infrastructure of £19.75 million. This will continue to be targeted at managing the rate of deterioration of the highway network.
- 4.6 Council have approved funding of £2.5 million over five years to support the delivery of bridge strengthening and renewals prioritised through the Member approved ranking system. This will enable a number of substandard bridges to be either strengthened or replaced to remove restrictions or allow continued unrestricted access to communities and businesses.
- 4.7 Funding of £1.1 million has been provided for street lighting over a five year period. This will commence with an initial budget of £100k for 2019/2020 rising to £250k each year from 2020/2021 for the following four years. This will be used to address an aging cable network and structurally defective lighting columns.
- 4.8 As part of the Welsh Government grant of £2.371 million made available in 2017/2018. The Authority used part of the grant to capitalise £466,000 of eligible revenue expenditure with the proviso that the service would not be disadvantaged and additional funding would be made available in future years. Funding has now been approved for 2019/2020 and has been allocated to structural maintenance of roads increasing the budget from £1.12 million to £1.586 million.

Building on the £30 million investment Welsh Government made to local authorities in 2017/2018 to maintain and prevent the deterioration of the local roads network, they have committed a further £60 million over three years (2018/2019, 2019/2020 & 2020/2021). The 2018/2019 funding of circa £1.58 million has not yet been received.

- 4.9 It is recommended that delegation for the development and approval of detailed scheme lists within each category remain with 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 Impact assessments were undertaken as part of the budget proposals to Cabinet on 12th February 2019.

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. The Council's budget has been developed in accordance with this framework. The allocations within the proposed programme and schemes to be promoted within the programme take account of a range of issues in line with the Corporate Improvement Plan framework.

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 supports the recommendation that the budget is allocated as per the breakdown set out in Appendix A as per the established ranking system. It is also recommended to delegate to the Head of Service for Highways, Transport and Recycling the power to approve budget allocations

within these headings, with the exception of major strategic schemes as per the moratorium.

11.0 Scrutiny

11.1 This report has not been scrutinised.

12.0 Statutory Officers

12.1 The Head of Finance (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

Contact Officer Name(s):	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
Antony Roberts Alastair Knox	01597 826619 01597 826608		antony.roberts@powys.gov.uk alastair.knox@powys.gov.uk

Background Papers used to prepare Report:

Budget book
Highways Asset Management Plan
Powys County Council Constitution
Vision 2025
Towards 2040, The Powys Well-being Plan.