

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH LAKELAND

Meeting date: 6th July 2022

From: Executive Director – *Economy and Infrastructure*

DIVISIONAL HIGHWAY PRIORITY WORKS 2022/2023

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 *This report provides an update to Members on the Divisional Priority Works schemes to be funded via the devolved 2022/2023 highway capital budget for South Lakeland. An allocation of £108,000 for Divisional Highway Priority Works 2022/2023 was agreed by members at the South Lakeland Local Committee meeting on the 25th of November 2021. This equates to £6,000 per division. This report also considers the backlog of schemes still to be delivered from previous financial years and makes a recommendation regarding the funding allocation in order to deliver the deliverable schemes in the 2022/2023 financial year.*

2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

2.1 *The allocation of funding to Member Division allows for consideration of divisional priorities enabling funding to meet local aspirations and relates directly to supporting delivery of Community Strategy and the following Council Plan priorities;*

- *To safeguard children, and ensure that Cumbria is a great place to be a child and grow up*
- *To enable communities to live safely and shape services locally*
- *To promote health and wellbeing, and tackle poverty*
- *To protect and enhance Cumbria's world class environment*
- *To provide safe and well maintained roads and an effective transport network*
- *To promote sustainable economic growth, and create jobs*

➤ ***To support older and vulnerable people to live independent and healthy lives***

➤ ***To be a modern and efficient council***

2.2 ***The Local Committee is able to vire funding between budget lines during the course of the financial year, subject to Corporate Policy and Service Standards. The Committee is not able to vire money from capital budgets into revenue budgets.***

2.3 ***There are no equality implications contained in this report.***

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 ***That the Local Committee approves Divisional Highway Priorities Works Programme 2022 / 2023 (“the Programme”) set out in Appendix 1.***

3.2 ***That Local Committee agree to vire £196,500 from the brought forward 2021/22 capital programme slippage into the Members Highway Priority Works budget allocation bringing the total budget allocation to £304,500, provided that this slippage is agreed by Full Council on 23rd June 2022.***

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The budget for Divisional Highway Priorities is £108,000 which is divided into £6,000 for each Division. The allocation is to be spent on capital highway related works enabling members to have a greater influence on small highway improvement priorities within their division.

4.2 There are a number of schemes agreed in previous financial years which have not been progressed to completion for a range of reasons: including but not exclusively past resources, the knock-on effect of delays due to the Covid-19 pandemic, budget constraints such as insufficient funding provided and in some instances the scale of the scheme.

4.3 Following the Local Government Reform decision resulting in the dissolution of Cumbria County Council and the introduction of 2 new authorities from April 2023, completion of all outstanding schemes with a funding allocation have been under consideration.

4.4 To enable clarity the current outstanding schemes have been carefully considered and a RAG rating (Red, Amber and Green) has been applied.

4.5 Schemes that were rated red and amber were not considered able to be delivered to completion before vesting day 1st April 2023.

4.6 Members were invited to discuss reallocation of red and amber rated schemes to deliverable options such as signage works, road lining and replacement of existing school flashing lights.

- 4.7 Following discussions with Members Appendix 1 details for each division the agreed schemes that are to be progressed this financial year.
- 4.8 Appendix 1 details all listed deliverable outstanding schemes. Members should note that due to lack of precise information from discussions that several Divisional allocations have not been able to be reallocated to deliverable schemes by agreement. Therefore, it has been included in the recommendation at 3.1 that these monies will be allocated to replace school flashing lights across the district to ensure delivery against those allocations whilst providing an important road safety benefit.
- 4.9 Further to paragraph 4.8 above the red and amber rated schemes that have not been reallocated to deliverable schemes in the last few weeks amounts to £49,100. It is proposed that this outstanding amount should be allocated to replacement of school flashing lights within the South Lakeland area that have been identified as needing new units. In addition to this other Divisions have also allocated to replacement of school flashing lights to a total of £32,500 as indicated in Appendix 1. Therefore £81,600 would be available to replace the majority of the outstanding sites with deficient units at present. Additional funding is being sought to replace all the deficient units to ensure they are all working across South Lakeland.
- 4.10 Whilst Appendix 1 details those schemes which are considered deliverable, it should be noted that this is a much greater body of work than is usually agreed to be delivered both in regard to the number of schemes, the budget and time. Deliverability is, therefore, dependent on resources and there is a degree of risk involved which should be noted.

5.0 OPTIONS

- 5.1 Approve the recommendation in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2.
- 5.2 Not approve or approve in part the recommendation in paragraph 3.1 and 3.2.

6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 It is for Local Committee to allocate resources within the devolved Highways capital budget to specified programmes of Highways work. Any changes in allocation that Local Committee may agree should have regard to remaining within the overall Highways capital budget devolved to Local Committee
- 6.2 The proposed allocations to be considered at the meeting include £108,000 for Divisional Highway Priority Capital Works 2022/2023. Appendix 1 gives details the schemes up to the value of the proposed allocation of £304,500
- 6.3 It is proposed to use slippage from last financial years 2021/2022 NPRN budget to finance the £196,500 cost of the schemes that will be outside of the £108,000 allocated Highways capital budget, provided this slippage is agreed, as expected, at Full Council on 23rd June 2022.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The recommendations in this report do not contain any legal implications however Local Committee could take decisions that could have future legal implications.

7.2 When allocating and moving money between budgets, Local Committee must follow the rules set by the Council following its consideration of the “Draft Revenue Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Plan (2022 – 2027) and Draft Capital Programme (2022 – 2027)” report (“the Report”) on 10 February 2022 and any such additional restrictions set by Cabinet and or Council regulating the use of such funds.

7.3 Local Committees may, pursuant to Part 2D, paragraph 5.1.2 (f), of the Constitution, agree and keep under review the implementation of, the highways revenue budget and capital programme for the local committee’s area to support the Council to carry out its statutory duty to maintain the highway in a safe condition as far as reasonably practicable. (KB – 22.6.2022)

8.0 CONCLUSION

8.1 It is recommended that South Lakeland Local Committee give approval to Appendix 1 of deliverable schemes.

Angela Jones
Executive Director Economy and Infrastructure

June 2022

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Divisional Priority allocations

Electoral Division(s): All South Lakeland

Executive Decision

	No
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Key Decision

	No
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If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?

		N/A
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Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?

	No
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If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?

		N/A
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Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny?
If so, give details below.

	No
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Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?

		N/A
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Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?

		N/A
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PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

Budget allocation decision Local Committee 21st November 2021

CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers

REPORT AUTHOR

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