

Director of Law and Assurance	Ref No: OKD14 (18/19)
November 2018	Key Decision: Yes
DfT Additional Roads Funding	Part I
Report by Executive Director Economy, Infrastructure and Environment and Director of Highways & Transport	Electoral Division(s): All
<p>Summary</p> <p>The Chancellor's Autumn Budget 2018 announced £420million towards additional Roads Funding.</p> <p>The Department for Transport (DfT) provided confirmation, via a letter dated 13 November 2018, of an additional £6.083million capital funding for the County Council. This funding must be spent on highway network infrastructure maintenance before the end of March 2019.</p> <p>The decision is urgent due to the challenging time constraint in which to spend the grant funding.</p>	
<p>West Sussex Plan: Policy Impact and Context</p> <p>The proposal supports the prosperous place priority in the West Sussex Plan – providing the infrastructure to support business and growing communities. The repair of potholes and stopping them forming is one element to improve the condition for all road users. Well maintained highways not only improves local productivity but also the environment (by reducing delays) and also makes cycling, horse riding and walking more attractive.</p>	
<p>Financial Impact</p> <p>Addition of £6.083 million capital funding for highway maintenance as an extraordinary payment to block funding to be spent by 31 March 2019 on highway network infrastructure maintenance</p>	
<p>Recommendations</p> <p>That the Director of Law and Assurance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Approves the addition of the £6.083m Department for Transport Roads Funding grant to the existing Local Highways Maintenance Block allocation in the 2018/19 Capital Programme which will be reported for confirmation at a future meeting of the County Council. 2) Authorises the Director of Highways and Transport to approve the delivery of schemes and works, to be identified under the DfT Road Funds programme, through the existing Term Maintenance Contract. 	

Proposal

1. Background and Context

The Chancellor's Autumn Budget 2018 announced £420million additional Roads Funding to be awarded to Highways Authorities across the UK.

The DfT has since confirmed that £6.083million additional capital funding will be allocated to WSCC and must be spent before 31 March 2019 on highway network infrastructure maintenance.

2. Proposal Details

- 2.1 A programme to advance priority capital maintenance schemes is being developed and will deliver improvements to highways network infrastructure such as carriageways, footways, structures and bridge repairs to improve network resilience.
- 2.2 In order to deliver this programme the additional funds secured via the DfT Roads Funding grant need to be combined with the existing Local Highways Maintenance Block funding in the capital programme. It is proposed that the Director of Highways and Transport be given authority to procure services for the schemes funded from this additional grant in the usual way with any particular schemes which qualify as key decisions being published in the Forward Plan.
- 2.3 The Chairman of the County Council, Mr Lionel Barnard (in the absence of the Chairman of the Environment, Communities and Fire Select Committee), has agreed that this decision cannot reasonably be deferred and may be taken urgently because of the challenging time constraint in which to spend the grant funding. (Standing Order 5.23 (b), Part 4, Section 5, of the County Council's constitution). Urgent decisions cannot be called-in.
- 2.4 The Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure, Mr Roger Elkins, has agreed that the Director of Law and Assurance may take this urgent decision.

3. Resources

- 3.1 Of the total grant, £0.1m is to be allocated for project management and design costs and a project team, comprising of WSCC officers supported by a dedicated programme manager, has been created.

Factors taken into account

4. Consultation

This extraordinary funding grant carries predefined constraints for use and delivery dates set out by the DfT.

Internal consultation has been conducted among service heads within Highways & Transport to scope a programme that complies with the requirements.

5. Financial (revenue and capital) and Resource Implications

4.1 Capital consequences

	Current Year 2018/19 £m	Year 2 2019/20 £m	Year 3 2020/21 £m	Year 4 2021/22 £m
Capital budget				
Change from Proposal	6.083			
Remaining budget	6.083			

4.2 The effect of the proposal

This additional grant fund received late in the 2018/19 financial year will enable the early delivery of priority infrastructure works improving the resilience of the highways network and have a positive impact on the network asset value.

6. Risk Assessment Implications and Mitigations

- 6.1 Risk management will meet the best practice assessment and mitigation currently applied on all highways scheme delivery.
- 6.2 The key risk in meeting the constraints of the grant as set out by the DfT is delivery of schemes that are likely to be affected by adverse weather in the winter season. An extended programme of viable works is being developed to ensure interchangeable schemes are available to ensure the full grant funding will be spent by the close of the current financial year.

7. Equality and Human Rights Assessment

A specific Equalities Assessment has not been undertaken for this proposal. Each individual scheme of works will be fully assessed against the requirements of the Equalities Act.

8. Social Value and Sustainability Assessment

The programme delivery will have a positive impact on the safety of the users of the West Sussex County Council's highway network.

9. Crime and Disorder Reduction Assessment

There are no identified human rights implications.

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Appendices

None

Background papers

DfT Letter 13 November 2018 - www2.westsussex.gov.uk