

ITEM 10

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Chippenham Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> November 2010</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Chippenham Area Highways Budget 2010/11 Prioritisation of schemes</b>

## **Purpose of Report**

To seek Chippenham Area Board's approval of the Chippenham Community Area Transport Group's (CATG) recommendation for the prioritisation of schemes for funding from the Chippenham Area Highway's Budget in 2010/11.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1. During the course of each year, Wiltshire Council receives numerous petitions and requests for small-scale transport and highway improvement schemes.
- 1.2. In previous years, an allocation has been made in the budget to fund a small number of the schemes requested by Town and Parish councils. To identify those that would receive funding, all requests were assessed and prioritised using the Council's Scheme Assessment Framework, which provides an objective, quantitative and rapid method for evaluating and ranking schemes. However, following the establishment of area boards, this area of funding presents the opportunity for decisions on investment in highway improvements to be taken locally.
- 1.3. The Area Boards have been allocated a budget of £250,000 in 2010/11 and are being involved in the assessment and selection of small-scale transport schemes to be progressed in their community areas. This funding was been distributed between the Area Boards in accordance with a formula which takes into account population and the area covered. In the case of the Chippenham Area, £18,000 has been allocated for this scheme in 2010/11.
- 1.4. Chippenham Area Board convened a Community Area Transport Group (CATG) to work with officers in September to consider the 37 schemes on the list and to make recommendation to Chippenham Area Board as to which schemes should be prioritised for further assessment and potentially subsequent funding in 2010/11.
- 1.5. There is a potential future role for the CATG to continue to meet on a six monthly basis to consider requests in order to determine those that are feasible, that might be eligible for funding in future years and to make recommendations to Chippenham Area Board.

## **2. Main Considerations**

- 2.1. In considering the recommendation from the CATG, Chippenham Area Board will need to be mindful of the objectives of the Local Transport Plan (LTP) and the likely availability of future funding for implementation. Current LTP objectives are safety, accessibility, economy, integration and environment.
- 2.2. It should be noted that the £18,000 budget is for capital projects and can only be used to provide new and improved infrastructure. It is to be used for schemes that improve safety, increase accessibility and sustainability by promoting walking, cycling and public transport, and improve traffic management. It cannot be used to fund maintenance schemes; these are selected using technical surveys and inspections. In addition, it cannot be used to pay for revenue functions such as passenger transport.

2.3. In considering which of the schemes were eligible under this scheme, the CATG also took into account alternative funding streams and match funding opportunities.

2.4. The typical schemes (and their corresponding approximate costs) eligible within the Area Board's highways budget are:

- 2.4.1 Pedestrian Refuge : £5k < 10k
- 2.4.2 Zebra crossing : £20k
- 2.4.3 Signalised (Puffin) crossing: £60k
- 2.4.4 Footways : £100 per metre length
- 2.4.5 Traffic calming : £50k < £150k
- 2.4.6 Gateway feature : £5k

2.5. Based on advice from Highways' officers following their assessment of the schemes listed, and having due regard for how feasible and affordable each scheme is likely to be, the CATG concluded that the following 5 schemes should be prioritised for further assessment, with a view to potential funding in 2011/12:

Brook Street	Pedestrian crossing
Main Road/Station Road Christian Malford	Footway extension & pedestrian safety
Pewsham Way nr Forest lane	Pedestrian crossing
Canal Road/Pewsham Way junction	Footway on Canal Road to access roundabout splitter island on Pewsham Way
Queens Crescent nr Conway Road	Pedestrian crossing

### 3. Environmental & Community Implications

There are no immediate environmental implications from the recommendations made in this report.

### 4. Financial Implications

Chippenham Area Board has a discretionary highways budget of £18,000 to allocate in 2010/11.

### 5. Legal Implications

There are no specific Legal implications related to this report.

### 6. HR Implications

There are no specific HR implications related to this report.

**7. Equality and Inclusion Implications**

There are no specific equality and inclusion implications related to this report.

**8. CATG recommendations**

That the 5 schemes listed at 2.5 be prioritised for further assessment, with a view (subject to the outcome of these assessments) to these receiving funding during 2011/12.

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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