

## Calne Highways Working Group (CATG)

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| Report to       | Calne Area Board           |
| Date of Meeting | 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2016 |
| Title of Report | Area Board Funding         |

### 1. Purpose of Report:

To ask Members to consider a recommendation from the Highways Working Group (CATG) relating to making additional contributions for a pedestrian crossing scheme at A4 Springfields School, Calne:

- **To approve CATG allocation of £3,350 towards the balance of funding required for the implementation of this scheme.**
  - **To consider allocation of £3,350 from the Area Board budget towards the balance of funding required for the implementation of this scheme.**
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### 2. Background

**2.1.** The issue of safer road crossing arrangements at A4 adjacent to Springfields School, Calne was identified as a priority for the Highways Working Group at a meeting of the Calne Area Board and, partly in order to avoid duplicating or contradicting planned work at Springfields School, the issue remained low on the priority list until April 2014 at which point work began on collating survey information and feasibility studies.

**2.2.** The CATG reported to the Area Board on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014 that a feasibility report had been completed which included pedestrian and vehicle counts. This suggested a formal crossing was not deemed appropriate at the location. The report stated that: 'Taking into consideration the data collected, the site assessment, the crossing options available and the adopted Wiltshire Council practice for pedestrian crossings it is recommended that an enhanced uncontrolled crossing be provided within Zone A as close as is

practical to the busiest crossing location recorded during the pedestrian surveys. It is however noted that this would have to take account of the existing bus stop and shelter provision that exists in this area'. (See *appendix A for full feasibility study*).

**2.3.** The Area Board was also informed that such a scheme would cost approximately £7,000 and would need to be assessed by the Area Board as a potential priority scheme for 2015/16 alongside other potential schemes.

**2.4.** On 10th February 2015 the CATG reported to the Area Board that this was the only priority from 2014/15 not to be advanced in that financial year. It was noted that £3,000 was available in the current CATG budget and that, if the Area Board was to approve allocating £3,000 from the CATG 2014/15 budget and £4,000 from the from the Area Board Community Budget, this piece of work could begin. This recommendation was approved by the Area Board.

## **1. Main Considerations**

**1.1.** Councillors will need to be satisfied that funding awarded in the 2015/2016 year is made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of it being awarded.

**1.2.** In addition to CAGs and digital literacy grants councillors can submit an Area Board/Councillor Led Initiative. This enables area boards to tackle sticky community issues and/or community identified priorities. Cabinet has emphasised it does not wish these to be used to avoid complying with Community Area Grant criteria or for filling gaps where there are council service shortfalls

## **2. Financial Implications**

**2.1.** Calne CATG (Highway working group) budget:

- The current balance of the Calne CATG (Highways working group) is **£10,695.35**.

**2.2.** Calne Area Board budget:

- Calne Area Board was allocated a budget of £45,179 capital funding in 2015/2016.
- Following decisions made in this financial year, the area board current balance is £36,732 capital.
- If all grant applications being considered on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016 are approved by Members, the remaining capital balance will be **£15,919**.

**2.3.** This is the last opportunity to allocate funding in the 2015/16 financial year. It is understood that remaining balances of both budgets will be rolled forward into the 2016/17 financial year.

### **3. Equality and Inclusion Implications**

**3.1.** Community Area Boards must fully consider the equality impacts of their decisions in order to meet the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty.

**3.2.** Community Area Grants will give local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Council's equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes, where they meet the funding criteria.

### **4. Recommendation from the Calne Area Transport Group (CATG – Highways Working Group)**

| Ref         | Proposal  | Amount requested                     |
|-------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| <b>4.1.</b> | Allocate additional funds towards A4 Springfield School pedestrian crossing | £3,350 from Calne CATG budget        |
| <b>4.2.</b> | Allocate additional funds towards A4 Springfield School pedestrian crossing | £3,350 from Calne Area Board budget. |

**4.3.** The last meeting of the CATG (Highways Working Group) took place on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016. At this meeting it was reported that detailed design was underway for this project and current plans were to undertake construction in 2016/17 financial year. Officers had produced a new estimate based upon new rates of term contractor. The new price was £11,300 and represented a £4,300 increase in the amount initially allocated.

**4.4.** The Highways Working group discussed the scheme and reflected that it had been a priority for the Area Board for some considerable time. They discussed requesting a contribution from the Town Council but felt this was not appropriate as current requirements for parish councils to contribute 20% to schemes had not been introduced when this scheme was initially approved.

**4.5.** The group therefore agreed to recommend the Area Board approve an extra allocation of £2,150 from the CATG budget and to consider allocating an additional £2,150 from the Area Board capital budget.

**4.6.** Following the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February, Highways officers have discovered an error in the new estimate. A final revised estimate and outline drawing

has been produced with a price of £13,700 (see appendix 2). This leaves a shortfall of £6,700. The Highways working group has asked that the recommendation from the CATG is revised to an additional £3,350 from the CATG budget and £3,350 from the Area Board capital budget.

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| <b>Appendices</b> | Appendix 1 – A4 Curzon Street, Calne Pedestrian Crossing Assessment<br>Appendix 2 – Outline Drawing, final estimate |
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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