

Highways and Streetscene Contracts Task Group

Briefing Note on Highways Maintenance Funding

1 December 2014

Routine highway maintenance such as grass cutting, gully emptying and litter picking is paid for with Revenue funding.

The majority of funding for major road maintenance and highway improvements is capital funding provided through the Maintenance Block Capital Grant from the Department for Transport (DfT). The allocations for the grant have been confirmed up until the financial year 2014/15, in which the Council will receive £12.262 million.

Beyond this financial year there is uncertainty about the level of grant that Wiltshire Council will receive; although in the latest Comprehensive Spending Review (Spending Review 2013) the Government announced that the DfT Capital budget will rise to £9.5 billion, indicating potential for allocations to increase. It is anticipated that the grant for future years will be announced in December 2014.

The importance of highways investment has been recognised within the Wiltshire Council Business Plan 2013/17 and as a result an intention to invest additional Capital budget was factored into the financial plan based on assumed future grant levels.

Highway maintenance funding in Wiltshire has been increased to £21 million for the six year period to 2020, with a budget for bridge maintenance of a further £3 million annually during this period.

It has been estimated that an annual expenditure of around £12.575 million would be required to maintain the highway network in its existing condition for the next 15 years. Spending less than this would result in road conditions deteriorating and public satisfaction reducing.

Increasing the funding to £21 million for six years will provide a significant improvement to the condition of the network, including improving the condition of the unclassified roads, and improving safety on the classified roads by improving an estimated 664 kilometres of road.

The conditions of the road network are important to the public, and this is reflected through the People's Voice and NHT surveys. The proposed funding is above anticipated LTP funding levels and will see improving road conditions in Wiltshire in future years.

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