

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND WASTE – CLLR BRIDGET WAYMAN

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT SERVICE

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THE RESULTS OF THE AREA BOARD 'SUBSTANTIVE HIGHWAY SCHEME' FUNDING BID PROCESS

Purpose of Report

1. To announce the results of the distribution of the Local Transport Plan (LTP) Area Board 'Substantive Highway Scheme' budget of £150,000 in 2018/19.

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

2. The [Business Plan 2017-2027](#) sets out Wiltshire Council's priorities for the next ten years:
 - Growing the local economy
 - Protecting the vulnerable
 - Creating strong communities

The Area Board Substantive Highway Scheme Fund provides a mechanism for Community Area Transport Groups (CATGs) to fund priority transport projects which exceed their discretionary highways budget in order to deliver local solutions to local transport problems and improve safety and accessibility.

Background

3. In previous financial years a Substantive Highway Scheme Fund was made available to enable Area Boards to bid (via their respective CATGs) for funding to deliver priority transport schemes that exceed their Discretionary Highways Budget. However, it has proven untenable to award substantive funding to projects and then design and build them within the same financial year, which has resulted in a backlog of substantive schemes requiring delivery.
4. Councillors Briefing Note 328, sets out the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste's decision to adopt a two year design and build programme for the Substantive Highway Scheme Fund. Under this process, a Substantive Highway Scheme Funding allocation was not made in 2017/18, although a Substantive Highways Scheme Fund bidding process would take place in the autumn of 2017 to award funding to schemes in order to finalise design and enable their implementation in the 2018/19 financial year.
5. The Substantive Highway Scheme Fund for the 2018/19 financial year will be set at £150,000. As in previous years, bids for this funding will be assessed according to their value for money and their deliverability as set out in paragraph 17 below.

6. In July 2011, an assessment mechanism was agreed to ensure that Substantive Highway Scheme funding is awarded to those schemes that deliver the best outcomes in terms of cost-efficiency and transport benefits. That mechanism has again been used to distribute the Substantive Highways Scheme funding.

Main Considerations for the Council

7. The LTP financial settlement provides capital to fund investment in transport infrastructure and facilities in the county. It is important that the Substantive Highway Scheme Fund is available so that Area Boards are able to implement their top priority highway improvement schemes.

Overview and Scrutiny Engagement

8. No engagement.

Safeguarding Considerations

9. None identified.

Public Health Implications

10. None identified.

Corporate Procurement Implications

11. None identified.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

12. There are no environmental impacts relating to this proposal. The LTP was subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment and sets out policies that aim to reduce dependence on travel by private car and promote cycling, walking and the use of public transport. The objective of these policies is to reduce the rate of traffic growth in the county and bring about an improved environment by reducing CO₂ emissions, community severance and air and noise pollution.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

13. The LTP financial settlement provides capital funding that is used to improve access and accessibility in the county for all people. Particular attention is paid to the needs of children, disabled people and those with mobility impairments, in order to meet their access and transport requirements.

Risk Assessment

14. It is important that there is a mechanism for dealing with priority Area Board transport schemes that exceed the Board's annual discretionary highway budget as failure to do this would result in a priority Area Board scheme having no means of delivery. However, there is insufficient funding to implement all substantive schemes and they must be prioritised according to their cost and benefit.

Financial Implications

15. There are no financial implications in 2017-18. It is intended that an allocation from the LTP Integrated Transport Block will be made in 2018-19 by the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste to fund the delivery of the successful Substantive Highway Schemes.

Legal Implications

16. None identified.

Options Considered

17. The mechanism that was approved in July 2011 for distributing the Substantive Highway Scheme Fund awards funding according to value for money and deliverability. Under this mechanism, value for money is the ratio of the cost and benefit of the prospective scheme and deliverability is an assessment of how challenging a scheme would be to implement within a given financial year, considering technical, legal/procedural, operational, financial and public factors. **Appendix 1** sets out the Substantive Highway Scheme Bid Evaluation Formula incorporating the above.
18. Thirteen bids were received this year and the sum of those bids far exceeded the proposed allocation for the Substantive Highway Scheme Fund in 2018-19. All of the bids have been scored using the Substantive Highway Scheme Bid Evaluation Formula which ranks the schemes according to cost-benefit and deliverability. It is proposed that Substantive Highway Scheme funding be awarded to the top eight bids which scored best according to cost-benefit and deliverability. The results are set out in **Appendix 2** with the successful schemes highlighted in bold.
19. A small sum of £900 will remain unallocated.

Reason for Proposal

20. There needs to be a mechanism for delivering Area Board transport scheme priorities that exceed the Area Board's available discretionary highway budget and are unable to be implemented in phases over time. The agreed methodology and the application of the Substantive Highway Scheme Bid Evaluation Formula has resulted in eight scheme bids being awarded Substantive Highway Scheme funding in 2018/19 financial year.

Proposal

21. That the results of the Substantive Highway Scheme funding mechanism as set out in **Appendix 2** be approved.

The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this Report:

None