

EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION FORM

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY: CLLR JULIE Mc MANUS

KEY DECISION: YES

PORTFOLIO AREA: COMMUNITY SERVICES

PORTFOLIOS AFFECTED: COMMUNITY SERVICES

WARDS AFFECTED: All

**SUBJECT: HIGHWAY STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2020-21
DETAILED PROGRAMME FOR KEY ROUTE NETWORK**

1.0 RECOMMENDATION:

1.1 That the Cabinet Member for Community Services is requested to:

- (1) Approve the acceptance of the £1,069,425 Key Route Network Funding from the Combined Authority together with the proposed programme of surfacing works set out in Appendix 1;
- (2) Approve the acceptance of £500,000 Local Highway Maintenance Challenge Funding from the Department for Transport (DfT);
- (3) The Director for Neighbourhood Services has delegated responsibility in consultation with the Cabinet member to make amendments to the programme having regard for available resources and risk-based prioritisation of locations selected for treatment.

2.0 REASONS FOR THE DECISION

2.1 This investment in the maintenance of the highway network enables the Council to comply with its statutory duty to maintain the highway. Funding is specifically allocated to the Council for delivery of schemes on the Key Route Network, supporting the main strategic route, economic growth and regeneration, and cannot be used for any other purpose.

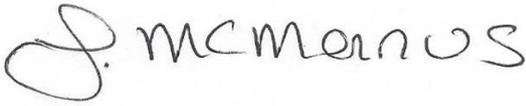
3.0 STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

3.1 The recommendations are made further to legal advice from the Deputy Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not

incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been completed. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

4.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

4.1 There are no conflicts of interest.

Signed:  Executive Member: Cllr Julie McManus Date: 22 July 2020 Also present:	Signed:  Chief Officer: Simon Fox Date: 22 July 2020
Date of Senior Policy Team Meeting(s):	

A list of background papers on this issue is held with:

Contact Officer: Linda Summers
Date: 05.07.20

Date of Publication:
Date of Expiry of Call-In Period:



Cabinet Member (Community Services) Decision

22 JULY 2020

REPORT TITLE	Highway Structural Maintenance Programme 2020-21 - Detailed Programme for Key Route Network
REPORT OF	Interim Assistant Director – Highways & Infrastructure

Wirral Council's Cabinet Member for Community Services, Cllr Julie McManus, said:

"Wirral's residents expect to be able to travel around our borough on a transport network which is fit for purpose and meets their needs.

"The quality of our roads is a priority for the people of Wirral - and therefore this council. This programme of works will help to ensure we continue to have a high-quality transport network which will support our economy."

REPORT SUMMARY

On 24th January 2020, the Liverpool City region Combined Authority (LCRCA) set aside a sum of £5.5 million for the Key Route Network (KRN) and Wirral has now been allocated £1,069,425 of this for its KRN highway surfacing works.

This report seeks approval to accept the proposed programme of surfacing works for the Wirral KRN as set out in **Appendix 1**. This approval will allow for contractor engagement and detailed design to commence, enabling the works to be completed in 2020/21.

In addition, LCRCA has received confirmation of a further award of £5 million in respect of a regional Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund bid, submitted to the Department for Transport in October 2019. Wirral will receive £500,000 from this funding for a specific maintenance project at A5088 - Poulton Bridge Road, carriageway and surface water drainage improvement.

The report also seeks approval to accept this Challenge bid funding.

All funding will support the delivery of the Wirral Council Plan 2025, in particular the priority themes of 'Working for an Inclusive Economy: Wirral residents have access to great jobs and good quality, affordable housing' and 'Working for a Sustainable Environment: Wirral residents live in a cleaner, greener Wirral'.

The maintenance of highways is a statutory duty for the Council under the Highways Act 1980 (as amended).

This is a Key Decision on the Council's Forward Plan and this matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Cabinet Member for Community Services is requested to:

- (1) Approve the acceptance of the £1,069,425 Key Route Network Funding from the Combined Authority together with the proposed programme of surfacing works set out in Appendix 1;
- (2) Approve the acceptance of £500,000 Local Highway Maintenance Challenge Funding from the Department for Transport (DfT);
- (3) The Director for Neighbourhood Services has delegated responsibility in consultation with the Cabinet member to make amendments to the programme having regard for available resources and risk-based prioritisation of locations selected for treatment.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 This investment in the maintenance of the highway network enables the Council to comply with its statutory duty to maintain the highway. This funding is specifically allocated to the Council for delivery of schemes on the Key Route Network, supporting the Council's main strategic routes providing links to economic growth and regeneration sites, and cannot be used for any other purpose.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 In accordance with the Council's Highway Asset Management Strategy and KRN priorities, the programme has been developed using a risk-based approach. Prioritisation of sites for allocating the funding available against condition and risk assessment criteria is considered the most appropriate option.
- 2.2 Do nothing is not an option as funding has been specifically allocated to the KRN with a risk of reputational damage to the Council should it not be fully utilised.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The highway network and other transport infrastructure assets together represent by far the largest capital asset the Council holds, and the value of replacing those assets is estimated to be £2.48 billion. The highway network for which Wirral Council is responsible comprises approximately 1,200 kilometres of road. The Key Route Network is an agreed set of strategic roads across the City Region.
- 3.2 On 24th January 2020 the Mayoral Liverpool City Region Combined Authority set aside a sum of £5.5 million for the Key Route Network.
- 3.3 A further report on 26th June, LCRCA agreed to retain £250k of the £5.5million to fund an essential, city region-wide traffic management toolkit (Elgin) to support the effective management of the KRN. The remaining £5.25 million was allocated on a formulaic basis and Wirral has now been awarded £1,069,425 based on this process.
- 3.5 Approval is sought for the proposed programme of surfacing works for the Key Route Network as set out in **Appendix 1**. This approval will allow for contractor engagement and detailed design to commence, enabling the works to be completed in 2020/21.
- 3.5 The proposed funding exceeds the programme. This is to allow certainty of priority with flexibility to revise the programme in the event that, for example, there are clashes with major utility activities or some schemes'

scope is reduced or less costly treatments selected when the solutions are designed in detail.

- 3.6 In addition, LCRCA has received confirmation of a further award of £5 million in respect of a Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund bid, submitted to the Department for Transport in October 2019 for 8 specific KRN improvement schemes across the region. Wirral will now receive £500,000 from this funding (with a £100k local contribution) for the A5088 - Poulton Bridge Road carriageway and drainage improvement scheme.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The financial resource for this programme comes from the Single Capital Pot Transport Allocation, as outlined in the previous report to Leader of the Council on 24 March 2020.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 imposes a duty on the Council, as Highway Authority, to maintain highways at the public expense. The Council also has a devolved duty to maintain and improve Liverpool's City Region's Key Route Network in accordance with Section 6 of the Highways Act 1980.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 Existing staff resources will be used for the detailed investigation, design and monitoring of these schemes. Maintenance activity will be carried out through the Highways & infrastructure Service or discrete contracts as appropriate.
- 6.2 Preventative maintenance to highway assets will increase their residual life and asset value, and spending is targeted to maintain carriageway condition indicators.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The highway network is constantly deteriorating hence without a structural maintenance programme to address the highest priority locations, the network will deteriorate further, the asset value will decrease and the cost of carrying out much greater maintenance at a later date will be disproportionately higher.

- 7.2 Withdrawal of funding would lead to deterioration of the network which would have an adverse effect on the number of substantiated claims received by the authority for slips, trips and falls together with road traffic accidents.
- 7.3 Failure to deliver the programme in year would result in reputational damage to the Council and potentially the Liverpool City Region and may affect future funding allocations.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 All members were consulted and given the opportunity to suggest locations for inclusion in this Programme.
- 8.2 The consultation process has followed the following guiding principles of fair consultation:
- It should be at a time when proposals are at a formative stage.
 - Must include sufficient reasons for particular proposals to allow those consulted to give intelligent consideration and an intelligent response.
 - Those consulted should be made aware of the factors that are of decisive relevance to the decision.
 - Adequate time should be given for consideration and response.
 - The product of the consultation should be conscientiously taken into account by the decision makers in finalising their statutory proposals/ when the ultimate decision is taken.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.

(a) Yes and impact review is attached –

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2017/delivery>

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 An improved highway surface will reduce carbon emissions.
- 10.2 Increased use of surface treatment solutions, in place of planning and resurfacing, which is a key consideration of works planned under this

programme, leads to a considerable decrease in use of fossil fuel and disposal of contaminated waste. The Council intends to engage with suppliers to quantify reductions and available data will be reported separately.

10.3 Well maintained highways help support sustainable and active travel modes.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Linda Summers**
Inspection and Contracts Manager
telephone: (0151) 606 2267
email: lindasummers@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Proposed Key Route Network Schemes

BACKGROUND PAPERS

LCRCA Advice Paper – Allocating transport- related funding to support recovery from Covid-19 restrictions dated 26 June 2020

LCRCA Advice Paper - Additional highways maintenance funding to support recovery from Covid-19 restrictions – ADDENDUM Dated 1 July 2020.

Local Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund Application October 2019

KRN Condition Survey Data

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Leader of the Council Decision - Highway Structural Maintenance Programme 2020/21	24 March 2020
Cabinet Member Report Highway Structural Maintenance Programme 2019/20 - Local (Unclassified) Roads Programme	26 April 2019
Cabinet – Highway Structural Maintenance Programme 2019/20	25 March 2019
Cabinet – Highway Structural Maintenance Programme 2018/19	26 March 2018