

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR EDEN

Meeting date: 11 December 2020

From: Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure

HIGHWAYS DEVOLVED CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR EDEN 2021/22.

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 *The estimated base budget allocation for Eden in 2021/22 is £3,903,778 and includes allowances for Non-Principal Road Network (NPRN), structural maintenance, surface treatment, road lighting column replacement, and local area transport safety schemes.*

1.2 *This report sets out the proposed programme of works which it is anticipated can be delivered through the devolved highways capital funding available for 2021/22. The proposed capital programme allocations are summarised in paragraph 4.3.1 and detailed in Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 & 4(a).*

2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

2.1 *The Transport Capital Programme, including NPRN, structural maintenance and highway improvement schemes is the key mechanism for delivering the Council's Local Transport Plan Policies. The programme contributes to all the Council objectives and the management and improvement of the highway network affects all Cumbria's residents and visitors directly or indirectly every day.*

2.2 *Design processes and scheme details will reflect the County Council's policies for equality and diversity.*

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 *That Local Committee approve the apportionment of the devolved highways capital programme for 2021/22 as summarised in paragraph 4.3.1. and detailed in Appendices 1,2,3,4 and 4(a).*

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The 2021/22 Transport Capital Programme budget has not yet been approved by County Council. Therefore, for the purposes of this report the base funding for the highways devolved capital works allocated to Eden Local Committee for 2021/22 is estimated the same as 2020/21 at £3,903,778.
- 4.1.1 In previous years the devolved highways capital budget allocation to each committee has been calculated using a weighted road length formula.
- 4.2 The devolved highways capital budget provides for highway asset maintenance and it is for Eden Local Committee to determine priorities in order to maintain the highway network in Eden as set out in the Cumbria Highway Asset Management Strategy 2020-2025 and the Asset Management Delivery Plan
- 4.3 Recommendations on allocations of the overall budget into each spend type are shown in paragraph 4.3.1 below. It is proposed that the 2021/22 programme will again have a focus on planned preventative maintenance activities, such as surfacing works and footways in urban areas. Removal of surface water from the road through improved drainage, and the life cycle renewal of road surfacing are key activities in preserving the integrity of the highway. A long term planned preventative maintenance approach will have the effect, over time, of reducing the number of potholes and other defects requiring reactive maintenance action.
- 4.3.1 The 2021/22 recommended allocations for the highways devolved capital budget are shown below:

Item	2020/21 Allocation (£)	Recommended 2021/22 Allocation (£)
Surface Treatment (Appendix 1 and paragraphs 4.5 to 4.8)	600,541	599,000
Pre-Surface Treatment patching	550,410	526,200
Prioritised carriageway, drainage and remedial earthworks schemes (Appendix 2 and paragraphs 4.9 to 4.11)	1,213,500	1,333,480
Prioritised footway schemes (Appendix 3 and paragraph 4.12)	240,000	198,098
Minor Structural Repairs – Carriageways & Footways	454,885	467,000
Minor Structural Repairs – Drainage	202,442	220,000

Road Lighting Column Replacement	50,000	50,000
Local Area Transport Improvement Schemes (Appendix 4 and paragraph 4.14)	135,000	135,000
Highway Transport Improvement Schemes (Appendix 4(a) and paragraphs 4.15)	25,000	25,000
Reported Defects; Planned Works Programme (paragraph 4.16)	432,000	350,000
	TOTAL	3,903,778

Surface Treatment

- 4.4 The proposed surface dressing programme for 2021/22 is shown in Appendix 1.
- 4.5 Surface dressing, together with associated preparatory patching works, is a well-established and cost effective process which is used to seal the road surface to prevent water damage as well as to provide a road surface with an appropriate surface texture to help reduce the risk of vehicles skidding.
- 4.6 Next year it is proposed to allocate a similar budget for the surface dressing programme as this year.
- 4.7 Surface dressing is a specialist operation which is delivered through an external framework contractor. This work has been competitively tendered as a countywide four-year contract which commenced in 2018, bringing with it the benefits of lower cost, and improved forward planning and programming.
- 4.8 The proposed pre-surface dressing patching allocation for 2021/22 is to enable roads to be patched during the year in preparation for the 2022/23 surface dressing programme.

Priority Carriageway & Drainage Schemes.

- 4.9 The proposed schedule of priority assessed carriageway schemes is shown in Appendix 2. The appendix shows a suggested budget cut-off line, with schemes below the line to be included in a future year's programme.
- 4.10 The schedule is prioritised by an assessment process which considers the condition of the carriageway and then applies weightings based on traffic flows, proximity to schools, health care providers or sheltered housing, and whether the road is in an urban or rural area. Next year's highway capital programme adopts a needs-based approach as set out in the Strategic Asset Management Strategy and the Asset Management Delivery Plan. Schemes will be delivered up to the proposed budget level, with schemes from the reserve list being implemented where additional funding is available.

- 4.11 For 2021/22, as for the last few years, roads have been selected where specific defective sections and large patches can be identified for treatment. In this way, virtually the whole of the allocation can be targeted at areas of highway which have been inspected as being defective and the defects can be repaired in a planned way before they develop into significant failures and potholes requiring reactive repairs to make them safe.

The typical type of work to be expected would be:

- Machine laid inlay patching to defective sections, either full carriageway or half carriageway width;
- Haunch repair and/or strengthening of verges on un-kerbed roads which are subject to vehicle over-riding and edge erosion;
- Machine laid overlay/inlay carriageway surfacing on lengths of extensive deterioration, where surface levels permit;
- Drainage maintenance and improvements.

Priority Assessed Footway Schemes

- 4.12 The proposed priority assessed footway schemes are named in Appendix 3. The appendix shows a suggested budget cut-off line and schemes below the line would be included in a future years programme.

Traditional Highway Fingerpost Signs

- 4.13 An allowance of £20,000 has again been included in the proposed budget allocation to continue the programme of preservation and restoration of traditional highway fingerpost signs. Local Committee will be provided with an annual update of progress against the outstanding programme.

Local Area Transport Safety Schemes

- 4.14 The proposed programme for inclusion as highway safety schemes for 2021/22 is shown in Appendix 4. Sums have been set aside for area wide measures such as the implementation of Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's), including village speed limits; minor road safety improvements identified through road traffic collision investigations and local requests; the implementation of advisory 20mph speed limits outside schools; public transport infrastructure improvements; and pedestrian route improvements such as the provision of dropped kerbs, tactile paving and handrails.

Highway Transport Improvements

- 4.15 A budget of £25,000 to assist with delivery of highway transport improvement schemes will be considered for funding by Local Committee as part of its devolved highway capital budget allocation. A list of schemes is provided in Appendix 4(a).

Reported Defects; Planned Works Programme

- 4.16 Due to pressure on the highway service during the colder wetter months in relation to the potential for increased numbers of highway defects. Last year we allocated a sum of money to deliver planned highway repairs. These repairs are identified through either safety/condition inspections or reported through the Council's Highway Integrated Management System (HIMS).

Next year it's proposed to allocate less funding based on this current financial year end forecast, which is indicating a reduced spend against budget. With this in mind; next year it is proposed to further invest in prioritised carriageway and drainage schemes.

Delivery will be through one operational in-house team from April through to August and three teams from September through to March.

5.0 OPTIONS

- 5.1 The Local Committee may adjust the proposed apportionment of the devolved highways capital budget between the maintenance of the existing network and the programme of small highway improvement schemes included in Appendix 4(a).
- 5.2 The Local Committee may amend the priority order of named schemes in Appendix 4(a).

6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The devolved highways capital works budget for Eden Local Committee has been estimated at a base allocation of £3,903,778.
- 6.2 If members agree to the recommendations, this would fully allocate the Local Committee devolved highways capital budget.
- 6.3 The programme has been prepared and prioritised using methodologies identified in the report and will therefore deliver value for money.
- 6.4 Some schemes implemented through highway transport improvement programme may have ongoing revenue implications for future maintenance.
- 6.5 Any future revenue maintenance costs would be met from local committee's devolved highway maintenance budget.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The County Council is under a statutory duty to maintain the highway and in certain circumstances can be held liable for injury damage or loss caused to users of the highway as a result of failure to take responsible precautions to secure their safe use of the highway.

- 7.1 The object allocation of scarce highway maintenance resources on the basis of demonstrable need targeted at known defect areas or carriageway/footway liable to give rise to potentially hazardous defects supports the Councils statutory defence against third party claims.
- 7.2 Local Committees, may, pursuant to Part 2D, paragraph 5.1.2 f) of the Constitution, agree and keep under review the implementation of, the highways revenue budget and capital programme for the local committee's area to support the Council to carry out its statutory duty to maintain the highway in a safe condition as far as reasonably practicable.

8 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The proposed devolved programme for 2021/22 continues to focus on preventative highway maintenance activities and protecting Eden's existing highway asset by adopting a highway asset management approach.
- 8.2 Members are encouraged to approve the recommendation, which is intended to contribute to the Councils vision as set out in the Council Plan 2018 to 2022.

Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure
December 2020

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Carriageway Surface Treatment Programme 2021/22.

Appendix 2 Priority Assessed Carriageway and Drainage Schemes 2021/22.

Appendix 3 Priority Assessed Footway Schemes 2021/22.

Appendix 4 Local Area Transport Safety Schemes 2021/22.

Appendix 4(a) Highway Transport Improvements 2021/22.

IMPLICATIONS

Electoral Division(s): All Eden

Executive Decision

Yes	
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Key Decision

	No
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If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?

		N/A
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Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?

	No
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If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant

		N/A
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Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?

Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny?
If so, give details below.

	No
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Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?

		N/A
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Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?

		N/A
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PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS
[including Local Committees]

County Council Cabinet Report dated 27th August 2020 Item 10; Cumbria Highway Asset Management Strategy (2020-2025).

Eden Local Committee Report dated 28th October 2020 Item 39; Draft Highways Devolved Capital Programme For Eden 2021/22

CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers.

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