

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR EDEN

Meeting date: 23 March 2021

From: Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure

EDEN HIGHWAYS REVENUE BUDGET 2021/22.

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 *The highways revenue budget allocation to Eden for 2021/22 is £784,937 which is an increase of £21,368 on last year's budget of £763,569.*

1.2 *Members are requested to determine the distribution of resources among the budget heads within the highway maintenance revenue budget.*

2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

2.1 *Effective and efficient maintenance of the highway network underpins all of the County Council's corporate strategies.*

2.2 *There are no equality implications arising out of this report.*

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 *That Members agree the distribution of the devolved highways maintenance revenue budget for 2021/22 as proposed in paragraph 4.3 of this report.*

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The highway element of the local committee's revenue budget proposes appropriate allocations for maintenance expenditure.

4.2 The highway revenue allocation for Eden in 2021/22 is £784,937 and funds the following activities:

- a) **Highway Delivery Team.** The routine day-to-day work of the Highway Delivery Team in keeping the highway network in a safe condition includes repairing highway safety defects and formal highway condition and safety inspections in accordance with national guidance.

The proposed allocation of funding within the devolved highways capital budget for managing reported defects through a planned works programme; identified in a separate report, will enable capital funds to be used to support the work of this team. The emphasis on preventative maintenance through the safety/condition inspections and planned repairs should, over time, have the effect of reducing the number of defects requiring reactive maintenance visits by the highways team.

- b) **Verge Maintenance.** Programmed verge cutting works to maintain the highway verges throughout Eden. This includes the management of special verges, which are sections of verge that have been identified as being particularly rich in flora and fauna. This budget also includes for weed treatment on the highway network, and ad-hoc reactive tree work.
- c) **Drainage Cleansing.** Planned visits to clean and empty road drainage gullies and channels, to reduce localised flooding of the highway during adverse weather and the consequent need for unplanned emergency action. The proposed budget allocation is considered sufficient to allow for a risk based approach in managing the gully emptying service by identifying medium and high risk locations and focusing resources on these areas, in addition to dealing with instances of flooding. Proposed allocations within the devolved highways capital programme will enable planned investigation, maintenance and improvement work to drainage assets.
- d) **Road Markings Maintenance.** This work is delivered through an external contractor framework. The proposed allocation for the refurbishment of existing road markings is ordered throughout the year.
- e) **Appleby Fair.** This annual event requires input from the highways service to erect and remove temporary signs and temporary fencing in order to maintain safe movement of vehicles and pedestrians on the highway and assisting the Police in the traffic management of visitors to the Fair. Although the Fair didn't go ahead in 2020 due to COVID, the budget set aside this year is based on the cost of plant and materials incurred the last time the event took place in 2019.
- f) **Road Lighting.** The routine inspection, maintenance and repair of Eden's road lighting asset, illuminated signs and bollards is carried out by the County Council's in-house workforce.
- g) **Traffic Signals.** The maintenance of traffic signals is procured through a county-wide external contract.

- 4.3 The proposed allocation of the 2021/22 highways revenue budget to the above activities is set out in the table below.

<u>MAINTENANCE HEADING</u>	<i>2020/21 Budget Allocation (£)</i>	Proposed 2021/22 Budget Allocation (£)
BASIC MAINTENANCE		
Highways Delivery Teams, Resources and Materials	223,150	219,343
Verge Maintenance	120,000	120,000
Drainage Cleansing	295,419	290,594
Road Marking Maintenance	15,000	15,000
Appleby Fair	0	30,000
TOTAL BASIC MAINTENANCE	653,569	674,937
ROAD LIGHTING (Works)		
Road Lighting and Illuminated Traffic Signs	95,000	95,000
Traffic Signal Maintenance	15,000	15,000
TOTAL ROAD LIGHTING	110,000	110,000
TOTAL HIGHWAYS REVENUE	763,569	784,937

- 4.4 The Highways Revenue spend in 2021/22 will be delivered through a combination of the in-house highway delivery team and external framework contractors (verge maintenance, road markings and traffic signals).

5.0 OPTIONS

- 5.1 The proposals for the distribution of funding shown in 4.3 is derived from the maintenance need of the highway network in recent years and is intended to manage and prioritise within the constraints of available budget. There is some scope for Members to amend the distribution of resources among the various revenue budget headings, with caution to ensure the highway network is maintained in as safe a condition as possible.

6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The 2021/22 highways revenue budget for Eden Local Committee was approved by the County Council on 18th February 2021 at £784,937.
- 6.2 If members agree to the recommendations in 4.3, it will allocate the entire highways revenue budget.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The recommendations within this document fall within the remit and function of the committee as per Cumbria County Council's written constitution.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The highways revenue budget represents the optimum distribution of funding available within current resources.

Angela Jones
Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure
March 2021

APPENDICES

None.

IMPLICATIONS

Electoral Division(s): All Eden

Executive Decision

Yes	
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Key Decision

Yes	
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If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?

Yes		
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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 Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?

		n/a
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Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny?

	No
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If so, give details below.

Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?

	No	
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Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?

	No	
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PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

[including Local Committees]

Cumbria County Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan 2021-2026.
Cumbria County Council, Local Committee for Eden- Wednesday 20th January 2021; Item 62.

CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers.

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