

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR BARROW

Meeting date: 18 November 2019

From: Acting Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure

2019/20 HIGHWAYS DEVOLVED REVENUE AND CAPITAL UPDATE

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 *This report presents the Highways Revenue and Devolved Capital and Non-Devolved Capital Budget finance reports and updates members as to current progress on these budget lines as detailed in the attached appendices.*

2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

2.1 *This Committee's devolved 2019/20 Cash Limited Budget was determined by the County Council in February 2019. The Local Committee is able to vire funding between budget lines during the course of the financial year, subject to Corporate Policy and Service Standards. The Committee is not able to vire funding from capital budgets into revenue budgets.*

2.2 *The original Devolved Highways Revenue budget is £754,000.*

2.3 *The original Devolved Highways Capital budget is £1,241,858.*

2.4 *Carry forward of the under or accelerated spend during 2018/19 was approved at a meeting of full Council on 27th June 2019 This has had the effect of altering the Revenue and Capital budget lines as follows;.*

2.5 *Devolved Highways Revenue budget is now £792,883*

2.6 *Devolved Highways Capital budget is now £1,198,537*

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 *That Local Committee note the revenue and capital budget allocations for 2019/20 and the commitments and expenditure recorded to the end of September 2019 and shown in Appendices 1, 2 and 3.*

- 3.2** *That Local Committee agree to reallocate £38,883 Devolved Highways Revenue budget underspending brought forward from 2018/19 currently held on the Other line of the Devolved Highways Revenue budget for 2019/20 to the Better Highways line within the Devolved Highways Revenue budget for 2019/20.*

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The latest Devolved Highways Revenue budget for 2018/19 is £792,883. Forecast outturn figures and comments on programmed progress are shown in Appendix 1.
- 4.2 Works ordered against the Devolved Highways Revenue budget are delivered through a combination of the in-house workforce for Better Highways and Street Lighting activities, and a mixture of in house teams and external contractors for drainage cleansing, verge maintenance, road markings and traffic signals maintenance. We are currently predicting an underspend of £12,381 on this budget but the Network Management Team will look to manage these costs against remaining schemes wherever possible.
- 4.3 Within the Devolved Highways Revenue budget there is a line headed Other with an allocation of £38,883. This represents underspending from 2018/19 which Cabinet agreed to carry forward to 2019/20. In addition to this the Better Highways budget line is currently running ahead of profile and is currently forecasting an accelerated spend of £35,811. Reallocating £38,883 from the Other line to the Better Highways line would address the current forecast overspend on the Better Highways line and is suggested as a recommendation to the Local Committee.
- 4.4 The latest Devolved Highways Capital budget allocation for 2019/20 is £1,198,537. Forecast outturn figures and comments on programmed progress are shown in Appendix 2. Currently we are forecasting an accelerated spend in this budget line of £45,659, but intend to scrutinize remaining works to manage costs as we progress through the financial year.
- 4.5 Works ordered against the devolved highways capital program are delivered through a combination of in-house construction teams and external framework contractors, notably for machine-laid road surfacing work and surface dressing.
- 4.6 Part of the highways capital programme uses budgets which are not devolved to this committee. These programmes include works on the Principal Road Network, Engineering Safety Schemes, Priority Transport Improvement Schemes, Bridges and Structures, and the Additional Pothole Fund allocation. The current budget is £263,640. Forecast outturn figures and comments on programme progress for the non-devolved budget programmes are shown in Appendix 3.

5.0 OPTIONS

- 5.1 This Committee may decide to vire money between budget headings. The Committee is not able to vire money from capital budgets into revenue budgets.

6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 It is for Local Committee to allocate resources within the devolved revenue and devolved capital budgets to specified programmes of Highways work subject to Corporate Policy and Service Standards (paragraph 5.1). Any changes in allocation that Local Committee may agree should have regard to remaining within the overall revenue and capital budgets devolved to Local Committee.
- 6.2 Although the £38,883 currently allocated to the Other line in the Devolved Highways Revenue budget has been forecast to be fully expended (Appendix 1) there is no expenditure committed against this allocation at present and if Local Committee agrees it could be re-allocated to the Better Highways line (recommendation 3.2).

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 At this stage, the devolved Highways Revenue budget is forecasting a small underspend. The devolved Capital budget is forecasting some accelerated spend at the financial year end. The Local Highways Team are working to manage this accelerated spend and ensure savings wherever possible. It is expected that the full programme of capital works can be delivered by the end of the financial year.

Angela Jones
Acting Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure

November 2019

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 - Devolved Highways Revenue Budget to end of September 2019**
- Appendix 2 - Devolved Highways Capital Budget to end of September 2019**
- Appendix 3 – Non-Devolved Highways Capital Budget to end of September 2019**

Electoral Divisions: All Barrow

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 Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?

		N/A
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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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N.B. If an executive decision is made, then a decision cannot be implemented until the expiry of the eighth working day after the date of the meeting – unless the decision is urgent and exempt from call-in and necessary approvals have been obtained.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS
[including Local Committees]

No previous relevant decisions.

CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers.

REPORT AUTHOR

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