



To: East Area Committee 29/10/2015

Report by: Simon Payne,
Director of Environment

Wards affected: Petersfield, Romsey, Coleridge, Abbey

MINOR/LOCAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME 2016-17

1.0 Executive summary

This report requests that the Committee consider bids received by Cambridgeshire County Council for Local Highways Improvement (LHI) schemes in East area for 2016-17, and determine a priority list of up to 8 projects to be further considered by Cambridge Joint Area Committee and its nominated assessment panel (within the funding available across the City for 2016-17) from those listed in Appendix A of this report.

2.0 Recommendations

The East Area Committee is requested to:

- 2.1 Consider Local Highways Improvement (LHI) applications received by Cambridgeshire County Council from Councillors and community groups across the city for financial support from the City Council in 2016-17 from its Minor Highways Improvements budget;
- 2.2 Select up to 8 projects which it considers to be the highest priority, for further consideration and adoption by Cambridge Joint Area Committee and its nominated assessment panel.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 Cambridgeshire County Council has for a number of years operated an annual programme of Local Highways Improvements (LHI) across the County. This enables Parish Councils and other community groups to bid for funding to improve their local highways and streets, provided they are able to contribute financially to the minimum level required (10% of anticipated project cost). Bids are invited each year

across the five district areas, to be considered within the financial allocations available for each area.

- 3.2 Within Cambridge, these required financial contributions have been considered, and agreed, through Area Committees as part of the annual Environment Improvement Programme (EIP), with the Cambridge Joint Area Committee agreeing the overall programme city-wide.

4.0 Amendments to Operating Protocols

- 4.1 Whilst the programme has operated well outside of Cambridge, within the city the lack of a dedicated budget has caused some difficulties to programme consideration and agreement. This has now been addressed, with the City Council allocating some £30,000 per annum for the four years from 2015-19 for Minor Highways Improvements, with the specific objective of providing the contributions required to secure an annual programme of LHIs across Cambridge.
- 4.2 In parallel with the City Council's work, the County Council has undertaken a review of its LHI programme and agreed amendments (Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee meeting on 7 July 2015) to its operating protocols, for application from the 2016-17 programme year onwards.
- 4.3 At its meeting on 14 July 2015, Cambridge Joint Area Committee agreed the appointment of a six member panel to act on its behalf in considering, and prioritising, LHI bids received across the city prior to final endorsement by the Committee.
- 4.4 The most significant other changes, in respect of Cambridge, are that bids for core improvements to highways (such as traffic speed or parking controls, and footways and pedestrian crossings) should now be considered solely through the County Council's LHI programme rather than through EIP, and that the City Council will be able to propose a maximum of 32 project bids each year (with each Area Committee being asked to consider and propose up to 8 projects across its administrative area) for consideration within the available funding.

5.0 2016-17 Programme Year Bids

- 5.1 Invitations for LHI scheme bids for 2016-17 were sent by the County Council to all County and City Councillors across Cambridge on 16 July 2015. This included revised guidance notes on the programme,

to assist in compiling bids, and a new project application form. Reminders were sent on several occasions by the County Council to ensure there was adequate opportunity to submit applications. The information pack is attached as **Appendix C**.

- 5.2 The application window for the preparation, seeking advice, compilation and submissions of bids has been dependent on the schedule of forthcoming Area Committee meetings, but has been not less than 8 weeks for any area of Cambridge. Across East area some 13 bids have been received (listed in summary as **Appendix A**, with full application details contained in **Appendix B**) for Area Committee's consideration, and prioritisation.

6.0 Area Committee Consideration of Bids Received

- 6.1 East Area Committee is asked to consider the bids received, and select a maximum of 8 across the area for further consideration by Cambridge Joint Area Committee and its appointed member assessment panel. The likely costs identified for each application listed in **Appendix A** are for guidance only. Where an application is considered either not practicable, or ineligible under the operating criteria for LHIs, no associated cost is identified.
- 6.2 Following consideration by each Area Committee, officers will undertake a technical appraisal of each of the projects put forward in order to inform assessment by the Joint Area Committee nominated panel. Whilst each Area Committee is at liberty to determine precisely how they wish to select their 8 priority projects, they may wish to make reference to the criteria laid out under section 5 (pages 8-9) of the guidance documentation attached as **Appendix C** (applications will be assessed in respect of road safety, persistent problems, community impact and added value).

7.0 Background papers

None

8.0 Appendices

APPENDIX A

Summary of East area LHI applications received for 2016-17.

APPENDIX B

Copies of East area LHI applications received for 2016-17.

APPENDIX C

LHI Guidance notes and Application form.

9. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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