



To: West / Central Area Committee

Report by: Andrew Preston
Project Delivery & Environment Manager

Wards affected: Castle, Newnham and Market

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN THE HIGHWAY

1. Executive summary

- The County Council has recently made the decision to request commuted sums to fund their increased maintenance liabilities created by all third party funded projects within the highway, including those funded by the City Council. This decision affects two existing Environmental Improvement Projects that have been approved for delivery. Approval of further funding is therefore necessary to enable these projects to be delivered.
- The County Council has also approved a joint highways budget with the City Council to fund minor schemes within the highway. West / Central Area Committee has been delegated a £5500 share of the County Council's £25,000 total contribution, subject to matched funding.
- Should the West / Central Area Committee wish to do so, it can prioritise schemes and provide match funding from its Environmental Improvement Programme (EIP) budget.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The West / Central Area Committee is recommended:

2.1.1 to approve funding of the commuted sums identified for increased maintenance liabilities associated with the Grantchester Road and Prospect Row Traffic Calming Schemes, totalling £7,610 from the EIP budget;

2.1.2 to allocate the required funding from the West / Central EIP budget by reducing the current funding allocated to the Midsummer Common & Jesus Green Path refurbishment by £7610 to £15,676, which is currently on hold whilst sources of further funding are established;

- 2.1.3 to allocate £2,750 of the County Council contribution towards the Canterbury Street Traffic Calming scheme whilst maintaining a total project budget of £15,000 and to allocate the subsequent saving in EIP budget allocation to provide match funding for the remaining £2,750 County contribution;
- 2.1.4 to select minor highway schemes, taking into account those identified in Appendix B, for further development and consultation, with a view to providing match funding of the remainder of the County Council's £5500 contribution from the EIP budget.

3. Background

- 3.1 The County Council's Third Party Funding Policy has existed for some time, but to date has been applied mainly to Parish Councils, not to the City Council.
- 3.2 In order to achieve consistency in its third party funding policy across the County, the County Council now requires the City Council to fund any additional maintenance liabilities arising from the City's decisions, in the same way as other third parties.
- 3.3 These are to be provided in the form of commuted sums for assessed increases in annual maintenance over a twelve-year period.
- 3.3 All new features introduced within the highway will have an associated maintenance liability. The assessment will also take into account any features that are removed, giving a balance of the maintenance liability.
- 3.4 The £25,000 County contribution for the Joint Highways Budget, recently agreed by the County Council's Cabinet, was delegated to the Cambridge Area Joint Committee (CAJC). A list of unfunded minor schemes was also presented to this Committee for consideration.
- 3.5 This budget requires funding contributions from the City Council and it was agreed by the CAJC that it should be further delegated to the Area Committees to select schemes, taking into account the current unfunded minor schemes listed in their area. The current list of West / Central area schemes can be found in Appendix B of this report.
- 3.6 The Area Committees might then choose to approve funding contributions for these schemes from their allocated City Council Environmental Improvement Capital Programme Budget.

3.7 The CAJC resolved to delegate the £25,000 budget in favour of the Area Committees with the higher number of Wards. £7000 was therefore delegated to East and North and £5500 to West / Central and South.

4. Implications

4.1 The assessed increase in maintenance liability for the Grantchester Road Traffic Calming Scheme amounts to £388.02 annually, leading to a 12 year commuted sum of £4,656.24. The proposed new highway assets that lead to this increase are as follows:

- 2 No. street lighting columns
- 1 No. illuminated sign
- 1 No. illuminated bollard
- 47m length of new kerbing
- 25m² of new carriageway
- Non-illuminated signs and white lining

4.2 The assessed increase in maintenance liability for the Prospect Row Traffic Calming Scheme amounts to £246.20 annually, leading to a 12 year commuted sum of £2954.40. The proposed new highway assets that lead to this increase are as follows:

- 3 No. precast speed cushions
- 4 No. non-illuminated signs

4.3 The current Environmental Improvement Programme budget allocated to West Central was fully allocated to projects at the last Area Committee meeting. The budget table in Appendix A illustrates the agreed funding allocation for projects.

4.4 In order to fund the additional £7,610 in commuted sums for maintenance, the Committee must decide which project or projects are assigned revised lower budgets.

4.5 It is recommended that the Midsummer Common and Jesus Green Path refurbishment project be reallocated a lower budget of £15,675 in order to provide this funding. This project is currently on hold whilst sources of further funding are found. This project is also primarily maintenance of the existing paths and the onus should be placed on the County Council to provide the majority of the funding as the Highway Authority.

4.6 In order to provide match funding for the minor highway schemes, it is recommended that £2,750 be allocated from the £5,500 County

contribution towards the Canterbury Street Traffic Calming Project. This would free up £2,750 from the current £15,000 allocated to the project from the EIP budget, to match fund the remaining £2,750 County contribution to develop and deliver additional minor schemes from the list in Appendix B.

5. Background papers

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

COUNTY COUNCIL NETWORK MANAGEMENT LEAFLET No. 6 (September 2010)
THIRD PARTY FUNDING OF HIGHWAY MEASURES

6. Appendices

APPENDIX A

West / Central Area Committee Budget Table.

APPENDIX B

Current unfunded Minor schemes list for joint funding consideration.

7. Inspection of papers

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

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