

## Officer Delegated Decision

### Report Title

Additional funding from the Department for Transport Pothole / Challenge Fund

### Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

### Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

### Report Author(s)

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### Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

### Report Summary

The Department for Transport (DfT) have awarded Sheffield City Region (SCR) £13.605m from the £1.7bn Transport Infrastructure Investment Fund (TIIF), announced in May.

The settlement letter for this award, detailing the grant conditions was delayed and was provided on 11th September.

The Mayoral Combined Authority Board considered the funding and how it should be distributed across the SCR at a board meeting dated 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

The funding will enable the repair of roads and footways included in the Indicative Highway Repair Programmes.

### Recommendations

That the Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment exercises their delegated powers and:

1. Approves the delivery of the current indicative Highway Repair Programme with the inclusion of the indicative Pothole / Challenge fund Programme  
Appendix 2

2. Approves the publication of the updated indicative Highway Repair Programme to include the additional works shown in Appendix 2

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

Appendix 2 Indicative Pothole / Challenge Fund Programme

**Background Papers**

Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP). Cabinet Report September 2019. (Link provided below)

<https://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/documents/s122479/Strategic%20Management%20and%20Maintenance%20of%20Rotherhams%20Highways.pdf>

Transport and Highways Capital Programme 2020/21. Cabinet Report September 2020 (Link provided below)

<https://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/documents/s127602/Transport%20and%20Highways%20Capital%20Programme%20-%20Version%208%20clean.pdf>

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

None

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## Additional funding from the Department for Transport Pothole / Challenge Fund

<b>1.</b>	<b>Background</b>																																								
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<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>																																								
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2.2	It was agreed that the funding should be allocated as set out in Figure 1 below.  <b>Figure 1. Distribution of the Transport Infrastructure Investment Fund</b>																																								
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<b>3.0</b>	<b>Options considered and recommended proposal</b>																																								
3.1	The Council has a statutory duty to maintain its highways through Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980.																																								
3.2	The DfT confirmed the additional funding can be used to improve the condition of the highway network both roads and footways. Works can be delivered in this financial year and next year due to a protracted confirmation of the available funding allocation.																																								
3.3	The Pothole / Challenge funding will be used to deliver the indicative Highway Repair Programme with additional projects identified to achieve the maximum benefit across the network.																																								
3.4	In accordance with the Challenge Fund Expression of Interest, up to £250,000 of the available funding will be allocated to flood risk reduction measures in Parkgate and Rawmarsh. It is anticipated that this will attract funding from other stakeholders such as SCR and Network Rail.																																								
3.5	The roads and footways included in the indicative Highway Repair Programme are determined by a scoring matrix, detailed in the Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP). Cabinet Report September 2019																																								

3.6	<p>The aim of this process is to prioritise sections of the highway for inclusion in the works programme that provide value for money, by repairing as much of the road network as possible, whilst taking a number of factors into consideration, as listed below. The criteria include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The condition of the road(s);</li> <li>• The number of complaints received.</li> <li>• The number of actionable defects (Potholes) identified.</li> <li>• Input from highway inspections.</li> <li>• The overall condition of the Ward's highways.</li> <li>• Ward Member and Parish/Town Council priorities.</li> </ul>
3.7	<p>An Indicative Works Programme is formulated using the above adopted criteria. The proposed works locations are indicative as they could be affected by a number of factors including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engineering difficulties</li> <li>• Changes to funding levels</li> <li>• Opportunities to coordinate with other Council Projects</li> <li>• Unforeseeable essential statutory undertaker works</li> <li>• The weather</li> </ul>
3.8	<p>The additional projects added to the indicative Highway Repair Programme will include the schemes shown in Appendix 2</p>
3.9	<p>The delivery programme for the £3.8m additional Challenge / Pothole fund requires the Highways team to design a number of schemes to be completed by the Summer 2021. This will allow works on the strategic network to be delivered during periods of low vehicle volumes - School Summer Holidays – and minimise disruption to road users.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Consultation on proposal</b>
4.1	<p>The programme of works has been shared with the Cabinet Member for Waste, Roads and Community Safety for the delivery of the additional Challenge / Pothole Fund works in accordance with the Highway Asset Management Strategy, Policy and Plan.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision</b>
5.1	<p>The Head of Highway Services is accountable for the development of the Highway Policy, Strategy and Plan and for ensuring the delivery of the Indicative Pothole/Challenge Fund Programme. The Highway Asset and Drainage Manager lead the operational coordination of actions to deliver the Indicative Pothole/Challenge Fund Works Programme.</p>
5.2	<p>The timeframe for delivery will need flexibility to allow repairs to the strategic network which have delivery restriction i.e. Works during the Summer School Holidays and the delivery of the contribution to the flood risk reduction in Parkgate and Rawmarsh will include match funding from other stakeholders such as SCR and Network Rail whose funding cannot be guaranteed in within</p>

	a single financial year.
6.	<b>Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)</b>
6.1	The majority of physical works are delivered by the Council's Highway Delivery Team. If any third parties are utilised then they would be procured under the Council's Standing Orders.
6.2	An allocation of £3,808,314 has been made from DfT pothole Challenge fund. The DfT confirmed the process for sharing the fund with local council's was by formula process agreed at regional level where devolution was in place.
6.3	The funding is to be used to improve the condition of the highway network for both roads and footways. Works can be delivered in this financial year and next year. Highways Services project fees are covered by the grant as are any applicable agency costs and sub-contractors costs. Sufficient approved revenue budget is in place to fund the resources delivering the programme of works.
7.	<b>Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)</b>
7.1	There are no specific legal implications associated with the individual programme but some projects within the programme will require legal assistance. For example, this may include the acquisition of land in third party ownership and development of Traffic Regulation Orders.
8.	<b>Human Resources Advice and Implications</b>
8.1	The programme of works will be delivered through existing staff resources. Specialist consultants will be used where required.
9.	<b>Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults</b>
9.1	A key element of the HAMP is to improve the condition of the highway network to enable accessibility and pedestrian safety for young and vulnerable road users.
9.2	The delivery of works that effect access to schools or places of worship are scheduled at a time to minimise disruption to all user groups. Often works near to or affecting access to a school are carried out during the Summer school holidays or at nights.
10.	<b>Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications</b>
10.1	An Initial Equality Screening has been undertaken.
10.2	The highway network is available for all residents, businesses and visitors to the Borough. The Council make positive changes to the highway network to provide any disadvantaged groups with equal opportunity to access all aspects of the network. The Indicative Pothole/Challenge Fund Programme includes a substantial schedule of works to improve access to the footway network. These measures provide visually impaired and wheel chairs user's equal access to the network.

10.3	All residents, businesses, local Councillors and relevant stakeholders are consulted prior to the delivery of schemes detailed in the Indicative Pothole/Challenge Fund Programme. All queries relating to access to properties or businesses are considered in the provision of the works. All additional requirements required to meet any specific needs of a group or individual during the delivery of our works will be accommodated to encourage the continued access to the highway network.
10.4	The Highways Communication Strategy details how the Council will liaise with the various media outlets and social media portals, including the Council website, to make the wider community aware of the proposed works, provide a method for interested parties to influence works and allow regular updates during the progress of the schemes.
10.5	The Communication Strategy includes the action to hand deliver a note to all properties affected by the proposed works in the week prior to the commencement. The note contains the details and contact information for the onsite works supervisor.
10.6	The onsite works supervisor is available to answer queries relating to the delivery of the scheme and also any access issues. The supervisor will make arrangements during the construction of our works to allow vehicle access for ambulances / taxis to allow residents to keep hospital appointments etc. or special requirements relating to weddings, funerals or other exceptional occurrences.
10.7	Good highway asset management enables the most efficient use of resources and minimises the disruption to all road users of the highway.
11.	<b>Implications for Ward Priorities</b>
11.1	None
12.	<b>Implications for Partners</b>
12.1	Where statutory consultees (utilities, emergency services etc) are affected consultation takes place at the initiation of scheme design, similarly with partner authorities such as South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTA) and SCR.
12.2	The Highway Service coordinates all requests for works on the highway in accordance with Street Manager to minimise disruption and allow the most efficient use of the available road space.
13.	<b>Risks and Mitigation</b>
13.1.	The highway network is accessed by residents, businesses and visitors to the Borough and the condition of the network influences resident's opinion of Rotherham and the confidence of businesses to invest in the Borough.
13.2	The projects identified in Appendix B are at varying stages of development. Elements of the design can change, or projects can become out of scope and undeliverable from a cost and engineering perspective. However, these risks will be managed using recognised project and programme management processes to continually monitor design and delivery to ensure available funding is not exceeded.

13.3	Failure to deliver the works detailed in the Indicative Pothole / Challenge Fund Programme could damage the Councils reputation with the DfT and risk future capital awards.
<b>14.</b>	<b>Accountable Officers</b>
14.1	Colin Knight – Head of Service, Highways - 01709 822828 or <a href="mailto:colin.knight@rotherham.gov.uk">colin.knight@rotherham.gov.uk</a>
14.2	Richard Jackson Highway Asset and Drainage Manager Ext: 23895 Email: <a href="mailto:richard.jackson@rotherham.gov.uk">richard.jackson@rotherham.gov.uk</a>

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers:-

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	Click here to enter a date.
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Graham Saxton	Click here to enter a date.
Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Stuart Fletcher	Click here to enter a date.

*Report Author:*            **Error! Reference source not found.**

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