

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member and Advisers for Regeneration and Development
2.	Date:	Monday 7th April 2014
3.	Title:	Highways Capital Works Programme 2014/15
4.	Directorate	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

This report outlines the proposed Capital works programme for Highway maintenance and Transportation schemes for 2014/15.

6. Recommendations

That Cabinet Member resolves to:

- (a) Note the specific allocation for Integrated Transport and Highways Maintenance for 2014/15 including the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF).
- (b) Agree in principle of the proposed programme as identified in Appendices A and B as the basis for further feasibility works, detailed design and implementation during 2014/15.

7. Proposals and Details

This report seeks to outline the proposed areas of work for the 2014/15 financial year that are to be delivered from Department for Transport (DfT) grants. The primary grant funding being the capital funding made available from Central Government for Integrated Transport and maintenance as part of the third Local Transport Plan (LTP3). The table below shows the LTP funding made available across South Yorkshire:

	2011/12 £000's	2012/13 £000's	2013/14 £000's	2014/15 £000's
Integrated Transport	11,252	12,002	12,002	16,877
Maintenance	15,932	15,723	9,910*	9,140 *

* following commencement of the Private Finance Initiative agreement in August 2012 Sheffield City Council no longer receives Highways Capital Maintenance funding.

As previous reports have outlined central government funding has been considerably reduced in recent years. In the forthcoming year funding for integrated transport has increased whilst funding for maintenance activity is reduced.

The Rotherham allocations are **£2,080,000** for integrated transport (IT) and **£2,729,000** for maintenance (the maintenance funding is further then divided between highway maintenance, highway structures maintenance and street lighting). In addition there is a direct award of **£282,000** for highways maintenance.

As reported in April 2013 the Council gave a commitment to contribute £2,000,000 of funding, through prudential borrowing, towards the cost of the major scheme at the A57. This expenditure was spread over 2 years with £1,300,000 being made available this year (14/15). Furthermore, the Council has given a commitment to contribute £1,000,000 of funding, through prudential borrowing, for the proposed improvements at Pool Green roundabout following a successful bid for 'pinch point' funding from the Department for Transport.

LTP Integrated Transport (IT), Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) and Local 'pinch point' funding.

Appendix 'A' is a summary of the proposed programme of works for Rotherham in 2014/15.

The LTP IT programme is divided into 5 themed areas, those being:

- Bus Priority and Access improvements;
- Connectivity (walking and cycling),
- Local Safety,
- Traffic Management and
- Smarter choices.

The **bus projects** are predominantly projects funded through the LSTF via the Passenger Transport Executive (PTE). The focus for this is the A633 between Rotherham town centre and Dearne valley, this has been identified as a priority for the Council, the operators (First and Stagecoach) and the PTE. Notable projects include the potential for a traffic management scheme in Parkgate district centre that would better manage the flow of traffic on the A633 particularly where the side road of Greasbrough Road junctions with Broad Street as this has been identified as a hotspot for delay. Additionally we are exploring the potential replacement of the staggered crossing adjacent to Parkgate retail park with a straight across 'Toucan' crossing together with a double length bus lay by.

The second themed area is that of **Connectivity** which aims to introduce measures that assist walking and cycling, there are a number of carry forward projects that have been reported to Members before. The notable new projects seek to improve pedestrian crossing facilities along the A633 at Manvers Way whilst also addressing relatively small scale interventions in Thorpe Salvin and Throapham where missing sections of footway make walking between destinations difficult. It is also proposed to compliment planned maintenance at Clifton Lane crossroads by making the existing crossings into Toucan crossings that can be used by pedestrians and cyclists as well as seeking to introduce a third crossing at the junction across Wharncliffe Street.

As in previous years there is a significant investment in addressing identified accident hotspots through our local safety scheme programme. The notable projects are the implementation of 20 mph zones for East Herringthorpe, which is a carry over scheme from 2013/14 and the extension of the existing 20mph zone in Ferham/Masbrough. It is also proposed to investigate the introduction of 20mph zones in areas that have previously had traffic calming introduced and where measured vehicle speeds are those commensurate with a 20mph speed restriction. A further notable project is the accident study and introduction of measures on the A57 between its Nottinghamshire and Sheffield boundaries where it runs through Rotherham this work is to be funded from a County wide LTP IT allocation and was identified through a South Yorkshire group established to consider accidents on a regional basis.

The fourth theme group is **traffic management** this will seek to implement measures to maximise capacity on sections of the network that currently suffers severe congestion. From the 2014/15 programme there is a £500,000 contribution towards the proposed improvements at Pool Green roundabout. This was a successful bid to the governments pinch point programme the Council will also make available £1,000,000 through prudential borrowing with the remaining funding; £3,500,000 coming from central government grant. Another key junction on the network that we intend to investigate and implement measures to improve congestion is the Rotherway roundabout at its junction with the A630 Rotherway and A631 Bawtry Road. Of the three demand management schemes identified in 2013/14 it is proposed to implement residents' only parking on Queensway to address parking issues generated by the hospital. In the other two areas; Clifton and Masbrough, it is proposed to implement additional waiting restrictions to address parking concerns.

2014/15 is the final year for both LTP and LSTF grants and as in 2013/14 it is proposed that the majority of the **Smarter Choices** programme of the work that was previously funded from the LTP is now developed using LSTF funding however it is proposed to use some of the LTP IT allocation to fund the provision of secure cycle shelters at schools.

The 2014/15 LSTF programme includes both capital and revenue schemes aimed at supporting economic growth whilst cutting carbon emissions by improving access to employment and training opportunities in the Dearne and Don Valleys. As previously discussed it is proposed to introduce bus priority measures along the A633, with a focus on the Parkgate area, and complete cycle infrastructure improvements between Rotherham and Sheffield, in the Don Valley and along the A633 between Rotherham town centre and Parkgate. The town centre will act as hub to these projects and measures are to be promoted that improve accessibility to and across town for those riding a bike. A number of innovative revenue funded schemes will continue to promote and encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport through sustainable travel events, bike leasing, walking audits, Dr Bike sessions and cycle training.

Maintenance programmes

As part of the long-term maintenance plan, surveys are carried out on all roads and footways in Rotherham. This information enables us to place roads in priority order,

which ensures that the worst affected and most cost effective repairs are dealt with first. Unfortunately, budgets are limited and it is not possible to carry out all of the programmed maintenance on all roads that have been identified.

The maintenance programme submitted for 2014/15 takes this information into consideration to maximise available budgets, it is attached at Appendix 'B'.

Where works are unable to be undertaken, routine safety inspections will be carried out and if any hazardous defects do occur arrangements will be made for them to be repaired immediately.

The majority of funding available for structural maintenance is to compliment funding made available from the governments pinch point funding at Old Flatts Bridge on the A630 Parkway.

With regard to Street Lighting and street furniture it is intended to upgrade or replace lighting and street furniture in areas where vulnerable persons reside such as sheltered housing for the elderly or where there is a history of high crime rates and amenity areas as part of the wider asset replacement programme. Also it is an opportunity to upgrade signs and bollards which are in need of replacement with energy efficient LED replacement units

8. Finance

The ITA has indicated that £2,080,000 of LTP IT funding is the minimum that Rotherham will receive. The indicated LTP Maintenance allocation is £2,729,000 plus a further £282,000 awarded directly for highway maintenance.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

All funds are either sat with the Council or with the Integrated Transport Authority (combined Authority as of 1st April 2014) for us to claim once works are complete. Currently spend against LSTF projects is causing some concern with the central team, although Rotherham is on profile with regards its projects for delivery. If delivery continues to be slow across South Yorkshire there is a risk that central Government could reassign the funds, which would affect delivery of projects in Rotherham.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

As a means to facilitate various ends, accessibility and high quality transport systems and infrastructure are vital if we are to achieve the aims of the Community Strategies and the Corporate Plan.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 2011-15

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