



Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management

Cabinet – 15 October 2020

Financial Procedure Rule 7 – Safe Routes in Communities Grant 2020/21

Purpose:	To confirm the Safe Routes in Communities grant allocation from Welsh Government and include the expenditure in the capital programme for 2020/21.
Policy Framework:	The Local Transport Plan 2015-2020, Active Travel (Wales) Act (2013).
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that : 1) The Safe Routes in Communities grant of £508,300 is confirmed and this expenditure be included in the capital programme for 2020/21.
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Finance Officer:	Ben Smith
Legal Officer:	Jonathan Wills
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The following report has been prepared to advise on the success of the Council in bidding for grant funding from Welsh Government to implement measures to support sustainable modes of transport particularly in the vicinity of schools in the Gorseinon/ Grovesend area.
- 1.2 The report details the works proposed to be undertaken using the grant allocation from Welsh Government and invites members to confirm their acceptance of the grant and its inclusion in the 2020/21 capital programme.

2. Safe Routes in Communities bid details

2.1 In January 2020 Welsh Government invited Councils across Wales to submit bids for funding to support active travel modes in Council areas, particularly around schools. The information below provides details of the bid, the issues identified and the solutions proposed. The report also confirms the level of grant funding awarded and seeks approval to include the expenditure in the 20/21 Capital programme.

2.2 Gorseinon and Penyrheol

2.3 There is a growing concern in relation to the levels of road traffic collisions in the Gorseinon/Penyrheol area of the County. In the most recent three year period the police recorded personal injury data shows there have been 76 collisions resulting in 96 casualties. The casualty total resulted in 9 KSI and 87 slight injuries. Although a significant number of these occur along the A4240 (a separate bid for Road Safety Grant funding has been prepared to address these), there is a growing unease reflected in correspondence and meetings with stakeholders over safe travel through these communities. In previous years the Council have introduced a number of 20 mph limits and zones, however evidence would suggest that where the lowered limit has been introduced without speed control features this has been of limited value.

2.4 Within Gorseinon 20 mph limits and zones have previously been introduced by the Council on the roads immediately by the schools. However, consultations involving pupils and local representatives highlighted concerns about the speed of traffic outwith those streets. A number of residential streets have been identified that would benefit from traffic calming measures and footway improvements it is therefore proposed to extend the 20 mph zone to cover the whole residential network surrounding the schools leading to the centre of Gorseinon. Reductions in speed together with improved crossing facilities will encourage greater use of more sustainable forms of transport.

2.5 It is also proposed to extend the 20 zone to cover the frontage of the Comprehensive school along Pontarddulais Road. Adjacent to the school is a Leisure Centre and an on-site theatre, therefore the usage extends beyond the school day. Opposite the school is a well used skate park that encourages outdoor activity. It is therefore proposed to supplement the zone with the introduction of a Toucan Crossing immediately by the school, and construct a new shared use path linking the community directly to the Swansea Bay Silver Cycle Route. An additional controlled crossing will allow for a safe route across Heol y Mynydd which acts as a bypass for the village. This existing off route facility links directly to NCN4 offering a safe route for active travel direct to the city centre.

2.6 The total capital cost of the works, including design and supervision, is £508,300. Welsh Government confirmed that the works will be funded in full through the grant. The funding is conditional on works being completed by 31 March 2021.

3. General Issues

3.1 Staffing Implications

3.2 The grant awarded has an allowance for fee built into the award. This will be used in supporting the operation of the Highways section in delivering these projects.

4. Equality and Engagement Implications

4.1 The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) and must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Our Equality Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

4.2 The fundamental objective of the scheme is to seek to encourage an active lifestyle by encouraging children to travel to school actively, helping with lifestyle choices for years to come. This is further built on by widening the scope to address issues around the wider community that may be limiting connectivity to sustainable modes. The success in implementing these measures supports a wide range of National and Local objectives by developing healthy lifestyle choices, addressing transport poverty issues and helping to address environmental issues through modal change. More locally, the potential for reduced congestion and lower vehicle speeds will help in creating an environment that is more attractive and open for people to move about safely and freely.

4.3 The works will be designed taking full account of the requirements to support the use of Welsh language. All traffic signs will be bi-lingual with Welsh appearing first.

4.4 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening form has been completed with the agreed outcome that a full EIA report was not required. A copy has been appended to the report.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Details of the proposed expenditure are shown in the Financial summary which is included as Appendix B to this report.
- 5.2 All works must be completed within financial year 2020/21. It will not be possible to draw down grant funding to complete unfinished work after 31 March 2021.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 The Highways Act 1980 Section 41(1) places a statutory duty of care on the Highway Authority towards road users of all kinds. The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 legislates for the provision of routes designed for walking and cycling. The success in implementing the works identified above will help the Council in meeting its obligations in this regard.
- 6.2 It will be necessary to ensure that all terms and conditions attached to external grant funding are complied with and that the Council's Financial Procedure Rules Regarding Grant Applications and Acceptances are followed.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

- Appendix A Equality Impact Assessment Screening Forms
- Appendix B Financial Summary

Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q4 HAVE YOU / WILL YOU UNDERTAKE ANY PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT RELATING TO THE INITIATIVE?

YES NO (If NO, you need to consider whether you should be undertaking consultation and engagement – please see the guidance)

If yes, please provide details below

Once the outline design is developed more fully it is proposed to undertake a public consultation on the proposals to enable the community to contribute to the development of the final design layout. In particular, this will take on board the views of local residents and businesses as well as disabled groups to ensure that the measures introduced meet the needs of the wider community. The detail of this will be developed in consultation with the Local Ward Members.

Q5(a) HOW VISIBLE IS THIS INITIATIVE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC?

High visibility <input type="checkbox"/> (H)	Medium visibility <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (M)	Low visibility <input type="checkbox"/> (L)
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(b) WHAT IS THE POTENTIAL RISK TO THE COUNCIL'S REPUTATION? (Consider the following impacts – legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...)

High risk <input type="checkbox"/> (H)	Medium risk <input type="checkbox"/> (M)	Low risk <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (L)
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Q6 Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?

Yes No If yes, please provide details below

The proposals will support a number of other Council services in the delivery of their objectives. In particular, the developed measures will help in making our communities safer to work and live in and address inequalities associated with travel.

Q7 HOW DID YOU SCORE?

Please tick the relevant box

**MOSTLY H and/or M → HIGH PRIORITY → EIA to be completed
Please go to Section 2**

**MOSTLY L → LOW PRIORITY / → Do not complete EIA
NOT RELEVANT
Please go to Q8
followed by Section 2**

Q8 If you determine that this initiative is not relevant for a full EIA report, you must provide adequate explanation below. In relation to the Council's commitment to the UNCRC, your explanation must demonstrate that the initiative is designed / planned in the best interests of children (0-18 years). For Welsh language, we must maximise positive and minimise adverse effects on the language and its use. Your explanation must also show this where appropriate.

The proposed works are designed to improve road safety and promote sustainable forms of transport particularly in the vicinity of schools. The focus of the bid is the improvement of sustainable access to local community facilities to vulnerable road users incorporating specific measures to accommodate those equipment for those with mobility issues. The proposed changes will integrate into the existing highway network and enable all road users to travel more safely in a sustainable fashion. The developed design will meet Welsh Government standards in the positioning of Welsh on all road signage.

Consequently, at time it is not considered necessary to undertake a full equality impact assessment.

Appendix B - Financial Implications

Financial Procedure Rule 7

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS : SUMMARY

Portfolio: PLACE
 Service : HIGHWAYS
 Scheme : SAFE ROUTES IN COMMUNITIES 2020/21

<u>1. CAPITAL COSTS</u>	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	TOTAL
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Works	433.2			433.2
Fees	75.1			75.1
Budget Code: EXPENDITURE	508.3	0	0	508.3
<u>Financing</u>				
SRIC grant	508.3			508.3
FINANCING	508.3	0	0	508.3
<u>2. REVENUE COSTS</u>	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	FULL YEAR
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Service Controlled</u> <u>- Expenditure</u>				
Employees				0
Maintenance		0.4	0.4	0.8
Equipment				0
Administration				0
NET EXPENDITURE		0.4	0.4	0.8