

Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management

Cabinet - 18 November 2021

Financial Procedure Rule 7 – Road Safety Grant 2021/22

Purpose: To confirm the Road Safety grant allocation from

Welsh Government and include the expenditure in

the capital programme for 2021/22.

Policy Framework: The Local Transport Plan.

Consultation: Access to Services, Finance, Legal.

Recommendation(s): It is recommended that:

1) The Road Safety grant of £219,100 is confirmed and this expenditure

be included in the capital programme for 2021/22.

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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 road safety improvements. The bids are aimed at:
 - a) Introducing a 40mph speed limit on the A4067 linking Ynystawe Roundabout through to Pontardawe. This limit to be supported by the introduction of an average speed road safety camera system.
 - b) Undertaking a study of the speeding traffic issues in the villages of Knelston and Scurlage in the Gower. This study to be used to inform future capital bids to address the issues identified.

1.2 The report details the works proposed using the grant allocation from Welsh Government and invites members to confirm their acceptance of the grant and its inclusion in the 2021/22 capital programme.

2. Road Safety (Capital) bid details

2.1 In January 2021 Welsh Government invited Councils across Wales to submit bids for funding to support the reduction in road casualties in Council areas. The information below provides details of each of these bids, the issues identified at each site, the solutions proposed and the level of grant funding awarded.

2.2 A4067, Ynystawe through to Pontardawe

- 2.2.1 On analysing the collision statistics throughout the County area, it was evident that there were a significant number of collisions on the A4067, between Pontardawe and junction 45 of the M4. In particular the section of this road, around 4 km long, between Ynystawe roundabout and Pontardawe showed a pattern of collisions where speed was consistently considered to be a primary factor. In the most recent three-year period collisions on this section of road resulted in one fatality and two serious injuries in separate incidents as well as 11 collisions where injuries were considered slight. There was a further collision resulting in a fatality which was recorded in the month prior to the three years reported. This too was considered to be speed related.
- 2.2.2 This pattern of collisions has led to widespread local concern over the speed of traffic on the road. The road itself is a key arterial distributor route linking traffic from the valleys to the city centre. Generally, the road operates at 40mph, however the section from the Swansea/ Neath Port Talbot boundary to Ynystawe roundabout operates as an unrestricted single carriageway with a 60mph limit.
- 2.2.3 To address the collisions on this section of road it is proposed to introduce a 40mph speed limit to replace this unrestricted section. To manage this reduction it is proposed to introduce average speed safety cameras operating over two sections. The first, from Ynystawe to Glais with the second operating from Glais to Pontardawe. This latter section will operate over the county border. Swansea will act as lead Authority in developing this solution.
- 2.2.4 The network of speed cameras has been, and remains an intrinsic element of the City and County of Swansea's armoury in reducing road casualties. The primary advantage of continuing to promote the use of safety cameras is the perceived and actual improvements in road safety which are engendered. This was confirmed in a study undertaken by the London School of Economics and Political Science published in 2017. The report's findings showed that speed cameras reduce accidents by between 17 and 39 percent and fatalities between 58 and 68 percent within 500 metres of the camera site. By utilising an average speed

- camera system it is envisaged that this benefit can be extended to cover the route from Pontardawe through to Ynystawe.
- 2.2.5 The total estimated cost of introducing the 40mph speed limit and introducing and new camera infrastructure has been calculated as £207,100 including design, procurement and project management. Welsh Government confirmed that the works will be funded in full through the grant.

2.3 Gower Village Study

- 2.3.1 In 2018/19 Swansea Council, supported by Welsh Government through the Safe Routes in Communities Initiative, introduced widespread changes to speed limits throughout the Gower area. These were aimed at both reducing the numbers of collisions on the road and creating an environment that is more conducive to walking and cycling.
- 2.3.2 The majority of measures introduced, particularly on the major routes, appear to have been broadly welcomed with positive feedback from local members and community stakeholder groups. However, a number of communities continue to report speed concerns through villages. This is a particular problem in the Gower area, where there are limited sections of footway with the highway boundary often being limited to the carriageway itself.
- 2.3.3 Although speed limits are in many cases now 20mph, local residents continue to report excessive speeds and concern over their ability to walk safely within their communities. Speed enforcement opportunities are limited due to the nature of the roads.
- 2.3.4 To address this, Swansea Council are seeking funding to create a rolling programme to examine speed related issues in each of the communities. To analyse the nature and extent of the problem, identify limiting features and develop solutions which will address traffic issues. It is then proposed to undertake extensive local consultations with all key stakeholders to look at what can be delivered and ensure that it best serves all interests. The Gowers status as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty may require a different way of thinking to make communities more liveable without unnecessarily impacting on the local environment.
- 2.3.5 In the first year it is proposed to look at two sites, Scurlage and Knelston. Both villages report very high speeds through the village, particularly off peak. Both have limited land available with limited sections of footway. Both villages also have bus services, but with limited or poor points of embarkation and departure. It is proposed to use this analysis to inform future decision making and look at developing solutions more broadly going forward.

2.3.6 The cost of the study is calculated at £12,000. This allows for all associated survey work, design and consultations. From this it is proposed to bring forward detailed plans which will help in addressing the requirements of often remote communities, with limited potential to link to Active Travel routes. Welsh Government confirmed that the study will be funded in full through the grant.

3. General Issues

3.1 **Staffing Implications**

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. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 4.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, 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 Acts.
 - 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.
 - Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socioeconomic disadvantage
 - Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
 - Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
 - Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 4.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.
- 4.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

- 4.2 In meeting this requirement both aspects of the proposals have the broad ambition to improve road safety by reducing road traffic collisions and casualties, whilst safeguarding vulnerable people particularly pedestrians and cyclists. Full consultation will take place on the developed proposals involving all user groups, including those with disability to enable the wider community to input to the final design prior to the works being introduced.
- 4.3 An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) screening form has been completed for both elements of the proposals. In relation to the A4067 this concluded that the measures proposed have a broadly positive impact on all users of the highway, helping to manage speeds and reduce the numbers and severity of collisions on this section of road. The reduced speed limit and traffic camera system are being introduced with the full support of South Wales Police. The developed measures will address current issues but remain prevalent to support road safety going forward. The risks involved in lowering the speed limit and enforcing this lowered limit are assessed as being low and there is a broadly positive impact benefitting road users along this highway corridor into the city. The assessment for Gower Villages concluded that going forward the study will consider mechanisms to support the needs of all road users in being able to travel more safely and sustainably. The developed study will address current issues but remain prevalent to support future generations in accessing local services linking safe infrastructure between villages and into the city. The risks in carrying out the study are low, and risk will be considered in developing any solutions for future implementation. Overall there is the potential to broadly benefit the wider community if a solution, or a series of solutions, can be identified to support road safety in the Gower villages.
- 4.4 This led to the agreed outcome that a full IIA report was not required. A copy of the screening forms have been appended to the report as Appendix A.

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 2021/22. It will not be possible to draw down grant funding to complete unfinished work after 31 March 2022.

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

Appendix A

Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form - A4067, Ynystawe through to Pontardawe

	service area and directorate are you from?							
	e Area: Traffic Management and Road Safety							
Directo	Directorate:Place							
Q1 (a)	What are you screening for relevance?							
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □	New and revised policies, practices or procedures Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, users and/or staff Efficiency or saving proposals Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing							
location Public S and	Large Scale Public Events Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans) Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy) Major procurement and commissioning decisions Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities services							
(b) 40mph	Please name and fully <u>describe</u> initiative here: speed limit on the A4067 linking Ynystawe Roundabout through to Pontardawe.							
propose manage two sec Pontare	ress the collisions along this corridor, including two fatalities on this section of road it is ed to introduce a 40mph speed limit to replace this unrestricted, 60mph limit, section. To e this reduction it is intended to introduce average speed safety cameras operating over ctions. The first, from Ynystawe to Glais with the second operating from Glais to dawe. This latter section will operate over the county border. Swansea will act as lead ity in developing this section.							
Q2	What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)							
	High Impact Medium Impact Low Impact Needs further investigation							
	n/young people (0-18)							

Future Disabili Race (i Asylum Gypsie: Religion Sex Sexual Gender Welsh I Poverty Carers Commu Marriag	ner age group Generations (yet to be be ity including refugees) is seekers is & travellers in or (non-)belief Orientation ir reassignment Language i//social exclusion (inc. young carers) unity cohesion ge & civil partnership ancy and maternity				
Q3	What involvement hengagement/consult Please provide detail undertaking involve	ation/co-produc lls below – eithe	tive approache	es?	asons for not
the pat	easures are being intro ttern of road collisions sed measures.	_			
Q4	Have you considered development of this	-	g of Future Ger	nerations Act (Wales) 2015 in the
a)	Overall does the initia considered together? Yes	tive support our (Corporate Plan's	s Well-being Obj	jectives when
b)	Does the initiative corbeing goals? Yes ⊠	nsider maximising No 🗌	g contribution to	each of the sev	ven national well-
c)	Does the initiative app Yes ⊠	oly each of the five	e ways of workin	ng?	
d)	Does the initiative me generations to meet the Yes ⊠		e present withou	ut compromisin	g the ability of future
Q5	What is the potential socio-economic, environment etc)		·		

High risk	Medium risk	Low risk
Q6 Will this initiative ha	<u>-</u>	nor) on any other Council service? de details below
considering all the impacts in affecting similar groups/ ser (You may need to discuss this will proposal will affect certain group organisation is making. For example, which is a series of the impacts in affect certain group organisation is making.	dentified within the screen vice users made by the orgith your Service Head or Cabin ups/communities more adversemple, financial impact/poverty,	et Member to consider more widely if this
reducing the burden on Emerg	gency Services and the Healt Social Services where road of	d traffic collisions will assist in the Service. It will also reduce the leaths or serious injuries necessitate eleaths of this nature.
Outcome of Screening		
SuSuWAn	utcome of your screening homary of impacts identifications of involvement (Q3FG considerations (Q4) by risks identified (Q5) mulative impact (Q7)	ed and mitigation needed (Q2)
manage speeds and reduce the reduced speed limit and traffic Wales Police. The developed road safety going forward. The developed road safety going forward.	ne numbers and severity of c camera system are being in measures will address curren The risks involved in lower being low and there is a bu	on all users of the highway, helping to collisions on this section of road. The atroduced with the full support of South it issues but remain prevalent to supporting the speed limit and enforcing this roadly positive impact benefitting road.
☐ Full IIA to be completed		
☑ Do not complete IIA – pleas support this outcome	se ensure you have provided	the relevant information above to

Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form - Gower Village Study

Q1 (a)	What are you screening for relevance?
	New and revised policies, practices or procedures
Ħ	Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community,
service	users and/or staff
	Efficiency or saving proposals
	Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
	New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g.,
new	construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing
location	
	Large Scale Public Events
\Box	Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
П	Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and
Public S	Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
	Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and
	improvement plans)
	Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language
_	strategy)
	Major procurement and commissioning decisions
	Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities
and	services
(b)	Please name and fully <u>describe</u> initiative here:
` /	Village Study.
Gowei	muge bruug.
A num	ber of communities continue to report speed concerns through villages in the Gower area,

A number of communities continue to report speed concerns through villages in the Gower area, where there are limited sections of footway with the highway boundary often being limited to the carriageway itself.

Although speed limits are in many cases now 20mph, local residents continue to report excessive speeds and concern over their ability to walk safely within their communities. Speed enforcement opportunities are limited due to the nature of the roads, and in current guidelines, non-permissible in 20 limits with no school in the vicinity.

To address this, Swansea Council are seeking funding to create a rolling programme to examine speed related issues in each of the communities. To analyse the nature and extent of the problem, identify limiting features and develop solutions which will address traffic issues. It is then proposed to undertake extensive local consultations with all key stakeholders to look at what can be delivered and ensure that it best serves all interests. The Gowers status as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty may require a different way of thinking to make communities more liveable without unnecessarily impacting on the local environment.

In the first year it is proposed to look at two sites, Scurlage and Knelston.

Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)

High Impact Medium Impact Low Impact Needs further investigation

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Welsh	Language			$\boxtimes \square$	
Poverty	//social exclusion		$\boxtimes \square$		
Carers	(inc. young carers)			$\boxtimes \square$	
	unity cohesion		$\boxtimes \square$		
	ge & civil partnership				
Pregna	ncy and maternity			$\boxtimes \sqcup$	
of stak	Please provide detail undertaking involved eloping solutions to the eholders in the Gower. www.of landowners, resi	ment e issues in these v As well as invol	villages it is pro ving local repr	pposed to work esentatives it is	with a broad range proposed to seek
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	development of this	nitiative:			
e)	•		corporate Plan's	s Well-beina Ob	iectives when
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Q6	Will this initiati	ve have a	n impact (however	minor) on any oth	er Council service?
	☐ Yes	⊠ No	If yes, please p	rovide details belov	v
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link	ey element of the stu to the wider transpo- ice pickups and put of	rt network	k safely. At present t		
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able rem infra risk pote iden	to travel more safel ain prevalent to so astructure between v will be considered in	y and susting and susting and the susting and the wellowing the well and the well safety in	stainably. The development of the stainably of the city. The stain any solutions for rider community if	loped study will add n accessing local risks in carrying out future implementat a solution, or a seri	f all road users in being dress current issues but services linking safe the study are low, and ion. Overall there is the es of solutions, can be
_	Do not complete IIA – port this outcome	please en	sure you have provi	ded the relevant info	rmation above to
N Jo D	creening completed ame: Alan Ferris ob title: Road Safety ate: 17/6/21 pproval by Head of ame: Stuart Davies	y Manage	er		
	osition: Head of Ser ate:	vice Higl	nways and Transpo	ortation	

Appendix B - Financial Implications - Financial Procedure Rule 7

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: SUMMARY

Portfolio: PLACE

Service: HIGHWAYS

Scheme: ROAD SAFETY CAPITAL GRANT 2021/22

1 CADITA	LCOSTS	2021/22	2022/22	2022/24	тоты
1. CAPITA	£'000	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	TOTAL £'000
	<u>Expenditure</u>	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000
	Works				
	A4067 Safety				
	Cameras	179.1			179.1
	Fees				
	A4067	28.0			28.0
	Gower Villages	12.0			12.0
	Budget Code: EXPENDITURE	210.1	0	0	210.1
		219.1	0	0	219.1
	<u>Financing</u>				
	Road Safety				
	Capital grant				
	A4067 Safety	207.1			207.1
	Cameras	207.1			207.1
	Gower Villages	12.0			12.0
		240.4	•	0	040.4
	FINANCING	219.1	0	0	219.1
2. REVENU	IF COSTS	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	FULL YEAR
2. KE VEIVE	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Service Controlled				
	Expenditure				
	Employees				0
	Maintenance				0
	Equipment Administration				0
	NET				<u> </u>
	EXPENDITURE	0	0	0	0