

## Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Transportation

Cabinet – 16 March 2017

### FPR7 - CAPITAL ALLOCATION TO HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS 2017-18

<b>Purpose:</b>	To confirm the Capital Work Programme for highway infrastructure assets.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	The Revenue and Capital budget as reported to and approved by Council on 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb 2017.
<b>Consultation:</b>	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that:  1) The proposed allocations, together with the Financial Implications set out in <b>Appendix A</b> , are approved and included in the Capital Programme.
<b>Report Author:</b>	Bob Fenwick / Stuart Davies
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Jayne James / Jeffrey Dong
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Debbie Smith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Phil Couch

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting of 23rd February 2017, Council approved the Revenue and Capital Budget for 2017/18. The Capital budget included an allocation of £3.476m for highway and infrastructure assets.
- 1.2 Furthermore, an additional allocation of £1m for 2017/18 has been made for Invest to Save schemes, by undertaking repairs to reduce the level of third party claims against the Authority.

#### 2. Objectives

- 2.1 The City and County of Swansea's infrastructure is in need of significant investment and there is a significant backlog of works. The Authority is continuing to develop an updated Highways Asset Management Plan to the principals agreed at the all Wales Asset Management Project. This will ensure spending is targeted based on a whole life cost approach which will minimise financial and service demands.

2.2 The Authority looks at different methods of repair and uses assessment methods agreed across Wales to evaluate the effect on network condition based on a mix of preventative, reactive and planned maintenance works. The highway capital programme 2015-20 was developed with these principals. The prioritisation for schemes is based on condition, likely deterioration and network importance.

### **3. Key Proposals**

3.1 Investment this year is over £4m. This includes the additional £1m funding and is in response to the identified backlog of repairs required on Swansea's roads. It is critical to ensure that investment in the highway network is sustained in future years to minimise future deterioration.

3.2 The £1m invest to save allocation will be prioritised on areas of highways maintenance that give the highest concerns in terms of insurance risk and claims. This will include a substantial spend on kerb on flat footway schemes, works to tackle skid resistance, joint repairs, and small area machine patching. The small programme of resurfacing schemes will tackle areas that have deteriorated since the forward works programme was published and will be prioritised on network importance.

3.3 A steady state figure calculated to stop further deterioration of carriageways alone is £6m per annum and the current backlog for carriageways is calculated at over £50m. The programme of carriageway works is included in the published Forward Works Programme 2015-20. The detail of this programme is available at <http://www.swansea.gov.uk/highways>. There may be some changes to this programme during the year as schemes may need to be brought forward or pushed back for example to coordinate with utility works.

3.4 There is a significant backlog of works to refurbish footways. This also remains a concern as the issue is reflected in the level of third party claims for trip and falls. The list of schemes planned is included in the published Forward Works Programme 2015-20. The detail of the proposed schemes can be accessed at <http://www.swansea.gov.uk/highways>

3.5 There are significant funding challenges for maintaining the bridges as there are 157 bridges, 44 culverts, 13 subways and 3 gantries within highway ownership. The programme to update bridges has been prepared to reflect requirements on strategic routes and those where strengthening is required.

3.6 The condition of highway retaining walls continues to give cause for concern. There is a need to carry out proactive works to prevent others from failing. This budget will also in the future, pick up all retaining walls within Council ownership. There are currently 429 retaining walls on the asset register with an approximate total length of 13km.

- 3.7 The River Tawe barrage infrastructure requires sustained investment to ensure operations associated with Marina and other waterside activities are maintained.
- 3.8 Street lighting infrastructure is still a cause for concern. A testing regime has been put in place to identify lighting columns at risk, and this resulted in a significant number of columns being removed. The majority of these have now been replaced, but further testing will identify more columns that need to be removed and replaced.
- 3.9 The programme to install dropped crossings to meet the requirements of the Equality Act will continue for the foreseeable future.
- 3.10 Longstanding works to reduce flooding on the highway will be implemented across the Authority. This will include specific works on several culverted watercourses. This element of the budget will also be used as match funding where Welsh Government funding streams are available.
- 3.11 An allocation has been made to deal with maintenance to unadopted paved and surfaced areas that are Authority owned in the public realm (non-housing). This is aligned with the move towards a “corporate ownership of assets”. Highways & Transportation will inspect and maintain these areas as problems are identified on a prioritised basis. This allocation also includes for historic but newly adopted streets that require work to bring them to adopted standard and for life threatening emergencies on un-adopted highways.
- 3.12 The condition of the cycleway network is generally satisfactory but there are sections that are nearing or past the end of their life. An allocation for cycleway surfacing work is included.
- 3.13 A significant percentage of highway safety barriers have been identified as in need of repair against current standards. The programme to repair and renew the barriers identified will continue for the foreseeable future.
- 3.14 Damaged sections of the coastal defences require investment to prevent further damage. The allocation also includes provision to investigate flood risks as identified by the Flood Risk Management Plan.

#### **4. Allocation**

- 4.1 In the current year the Infrastructure funds will be allocated as follows:

Carriageway Resurfacing	£1,370k
Footway Renewals	£650k
Bridges and Retaining Walls	£400k
Marina & Barrage	£65k
Street Lighting Refurbishment	£250k
Dropped Crossings	£ 20k
Drainage/Flooding Works	£400k

Unadopted Council-Owned Streets	£65k
Car Park Resurfacing and Improvements	£20k
Cycleway Surfacing	£30k
Replace Safety Barrier	£50k
Coastal Defence Works and Flood Risk Management	£100k
Urgent Infrastructure Works	£56k
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3,476K</b>

The Invest to save funds will be allocated as follows:

Footway resurfacing (kerb on Flat/marina setts)	£260k
Carriageway Repairs (resurfacing schemes/joint repairs/machine patching/skid resistance)	£740k
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,000K</b>

These schemes will target the areas of highest risk to the Council as this will help achieve a reduction in insurance costs.

## 5. Equality and Engagement Implications

- 5.1 The Capital investment in Highway and related Infrastructure will assist all road users and the inclusion of funding for dropped crossings will particularly help less mobile pedestrians and wheelchair users. Individual projects will be subject to the EIA process where required.

## 6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 **Capital** - The full cost of the Highways and Other Infrastructure works for 2017/18 amounts to £4.476m and will be fully funded by the Authority's own resources. Details are set out in **Appendix A**.
- 6.2 **Revenue** - Future maintenance expenditure will be met from respective Revenue Service budgets. An effective capital investment programme will help future revenue pressures.

## 7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 This investment will assist the Authority in discharging its statutory duty to maintain the Public Highway. All Procurements and Contracts intended to be let in respect of the above Schemes will need to be in accordance with current UK Legislation and EU Directives as well as complying with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

**Background Papers:** Highways Forward Programme of Works 2015-20 available on <http://www.swansea.gov.uk/highways>.

**Appendices:** Appendix A – Financial Implications