



Northumberland County Council

Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny

Date: 5 June 2019

LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN - ADDITIONAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2018/19

Report of Executive Director of Place: Paul Johnston

Cabinet Member for Environment and Local Services: Councillor Glen Sanderson

Purpose of Report

This report provides information on the programme of schemes undertaken through the additional £7.732m of capital maintenance funding received in November 2018.

Recommendations

To note the programme of schemes undertaken through the additional £7.732m of capital maintenance funding and progress in delivering the programme.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the following priorities included in the NCC Corporate Plan 2018/2021

How - "We want to be efficient, open and work for everyone"

Living - "We want you to feel safe, healthy and cared for"

Enjoying - "We want you to love where you live"

Connecting - "We want you to have access to the things you need"

Key issues

On 12 November 2018 Ministers announced an additional capital allocation of £420m of highway maintenance funding.

The County Council received £7.732m of this funding.

A programme of schemes to be undertaken using this funding was agreed in December 2018.

Delivery of schemes in this additional maintenance programme are progressing well.

This funding is in addition to the capital investment of £18.591m which was made through the Council's LTP programme for 2018/19.

Background

On 12 November 2018 Ministers announced an additional capital allocation of £420m of highway maintenance funding to tackle potholes, repair damaged roads and invest in keeping bridges open and safe.

This funding has been allocated using the Highway Maintenance funding formula, and has been provided to support the repair of potholes, to keep local bridges and structures open and safe, and to aid other minor highway works that may be needed. Based on the funding formula, a grant of £7.732 million was provided by the Government to the Council on 12 November 2018.

At their meeting on 11 December 2018, Cabinet welcomed this funding and agreed to include this additional funding in the Council's Capital Budget as additional Local Transport Plan (LTP) funding.

The detail of the additional programme was approved through a Delegated Decision by the Portfolio Holder and the Service Director for Local Services on the 12 December 2018. A copy of the Delegated Decision report is attached as Appendix 1.

The additional programme complemented the agreed LTP programme for 2018/19 and includes a mixture of patching, drainage and general refurbishment alongside a programme of resurfacing schemes and maintenance of bridges and structures and the additional works have been carried out alongside the existing 18/19 LTP programme.

Progress Report

The funding was received in mid-November and potential schemes were quickly assessed using existing condition information. The programme of schemes was agreed in mid-December with the intention of completing as much of the programme as possible by March 2019. The timing of receipt of the funding (which equates to approximately an additional 40% of the annual LTP highway maintenance grant) and the practicalities of undertaking extensive highway works at this time of year when work can be severely impacted by adverse weather increased the challenges of delivering this programme.

The delivery of the overall programme is progressing well, with approximately £4.701m being completed in the financial year 2018/19. The programme includes discrete resurfacing schemes through which over 16 kilometres of road has been resurfaced so far,

with 19 of these 32 projects completed. These schemes have targeted key routes suffering highway structural decline together with industrial estates with roads in poor condition. The schemes have included the resurfacing of approximately 2 kilometres of the southbound carriageway of the A189 at East Sleekburn.

A total of 24 individual bridges and structures were also identified for minor, but essential, repair works across Northumberland. Again, good progress has been made with 18 already completed, with only the complex projects that remain to be undertaken. Notable spend on schemes to date include the resurfacing of both Redesmouth Bridge and Greenhaugh Burn Bridge, essential underpinning of the wing walls to the Allenheads Smelt Mill and rebuild of collapsed culverts which had caused drainage problems. Both the C287 Ridley Hall Iron and A696 Monkridge Hall projects are currently on hold following further investigation undertaken since they were included in the programme as additional work is required which is of a magnitude that is greater than the scope of the funding available through this programme and subsequently will need to be considered for repair from a future LTP programme of works.

Alongside the above discrete schemes £2.150 million was targeted towards smaller scale carriageway, drainage and cattle grid repairs. This programme is nearing completion with approximately £1.291 million completed by the end of the 2018/19 financial year. These works have been undertaken countywide and have served to complement the LTP refurbishment programme, allowing the scope of these maintenance activities that target localised issues to be addressed. The cattle grid programme has involved ironmongery, fence and sign repairs to the structures as well as the complete replacement of gratings at two locations.

Appendix 2 provides an update on the schemes delivered to date and the schedule for completion of the remaining works

Implications

Policy	The County Council is committed to improving the condition of its transport network, in particular road safety, maintenance and improvement schemes. This additional funding has been used in accordance with the funding criteria to enhance the Council's existing highway maintenance programme and support the repair of potholes, to keep local bridges and structures open and safe, and to aid other minor highway works that may be needed
Finance and value for money	An additional £7.732m funding has been allocated to the Council and included in the capital programme.
Legal	None
Procurement	The County Council's usual procurement process are being utilised as appropriate.
Human Resources	The works are being carried out utilising the existing in house resource supplemented by external contractors where necessary.
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	None
Risk Assessment	Risk assessments are carried out on individual schemes
Crime & Disorder	None
Customer Consideration	Increased maintenance works to the network should increase public satisfaction
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	All

Background papers:

11 December 2018 - Cabinet Report - Additional Local Transport Plan Capital 2018/19

Report sign off.

	Name
Monitoring Officer/Legal	N/A
Executive Director of Finance and S151 Officer	Annabel Scholes
Relevant Executive Director	Paul Johnston
Chief Executive	Daljit Lally
Portfolio Holder(s)	Glen Sanderson

Author and Contact Details

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Appendices

Appendix 1 - 12 December 2018 - Delegated Decision Report - LTP Additional Maintenance Programme

Appendix 2 - 2018/19 Additional Maintenance Programme Delivery Update June 2019