

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee North Warwickshire Area Committee

Date of Committee 21 November 2007

Report Title Highway Maintenance and Safety Budget 2008-9 - Outline Capital Allocations

Summary At its meeting of 6 February 2007 the County Council approved a £2 million 2008-9 capital allocation to Highway Maintenance and Safety; £400,000 for each of the County's five areas. The funding is to be allocated to local schemes in consultation with Area Committees. This report makes proposals for outline capital allocations within the £400,000 for North Warwickshire area. When Area Committee has agreed the outline allocations a programme of capital schemes will be prepared for discussion at the Transport Seminars in early 2008.

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? Yes/No

Background Papers None

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- *Details to be specified*

Other Committees

Local Member(s)
(With brief comments, if appropriate)

Other Elected Members

Cabinet Member Councillor M Heatley – for information.
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)

- Chief Executive
- Legal I Marriott – agreed.
- Finance C Holden – agreed.
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION **YES/NO** (*If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps*)

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee Transport Seminar January 2008.
Area Committee 26 March 2008.
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

**North Warwickshire Area Committee –
21 November 2007**

**Highway Maintenance and Safety Budget 2008-9 –
Outline Capital Allocations**

**Report of the Strategic Director for
Environment and Economy**

Recommendation

That:-

1. The outline capital allocations for the North Warwickshire Highway Maintenance and Safety Budget 2008-9 given in Table 1 be approved.
2. A detailed programme of capital projects based on the allocations in Table 1 be prepared for discussion at the seminar early in 2008.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting of 6 February 2007 the County Council approved a £2 million 2008-9 countywide capital allocation to Highway Maintenance and Safety; £400,000 for each of the County's five areas. This report discusses the various highway maintenance and safety issues in North Warwickshire area and makes proposals for outline allocations of the £400,000 in North Warwickshire area. This year it has proved difficult to agree priorities for individual schemes in one meeting. Therefore, Members are asked to make strategic decisions to allocate the funding between different types of projects in order that officers can prepare detailed proposals. When Area Committee has agreed the outline allocations a programme of capital schemes (over £6,000) will be prepared for discussion at the transport seminar early in 2008.

2. Implementation of Speed Review

- 2.1 Members will be aware that following the implementation of the new Speed Management Strategy officers are currently carrying out a technical review of speed limits on all A and B roads in the county. A separate report detailing the proposed process for the speed limit review will be presented to this committee at a future date. However, in brief; once completed the outcome of the review will be published and comments invited from stakeholders including Local Members, Parish Councils and the community. The results of this consultation

will help Area Committee to decide on the priority for implementing any speed limit changes.

- 2.2 The technical review will not be completed until December 2007, therefore officers have necessarily had to estimate the anticipated cost of implementing the speed limit review within North Warwickshire area. The likely costs of implementing the speed limit changes resulting from the technical review alone is £170,000. Once Area Committee has reviewed the outcome of the community consultation Members may request officers to carry out further investigation on additional capital schemes. It is likely that many of these schemes will require significant engineering works to achieve lower speed limits and are therefore likely to involve significant costs that will need to be funded in future allocations.
- 2.3 It is suggested in Table 1 that an allocation of £170,000 is made to enable full implementation of speed limit changes arising from the technical review.

3. Highway Safety (Route Treatment)

- 3.1 Route treatment is applied to routes with a poor accident record where the accidents occur at many different locations along the route rather than at particular 'cluster sites'. Research has shown that casualties can be reduced on such routes using relatively low cost measures along the length of the route to give drivers a more consistent message. The precise measures vary but normally involve improvements to the signing and lining as opposed to civil engineering work.
- 3.2 The cost of a route treatment varies by location. However, one route usually costs approximately £50,000. Therefore, it is suggested that an allocation of £50,000 is made for route treatment work.

4. Highway Maintenance Issues

- 4.1 In the past two years Members have allocated extra maintenance funding to street lighting (including some lighting upgrading) to footways and to carriageways. The funding has helped deal with the backlogs of work in these areas.
- 4.2 Although there is still a small backlog of carriageway work there are bigger backlogs in street lighting (particularly upgrading old mercury and concrete lights) and in footway surfacing. The indication is that the footway backlog is a little larger than the street lighting backlog.
- 4.3 It is suggested that if Members support a maintenance allocation then 60% could be for footways and 40% for street lighting.

5. Local Schemes

- 5.1 It is recognised that Members come under pressure at a local level to implement low cost schemes that usually do not fall within the remit of the Local Transport Plan (LTP) and are therefore often unsuccessful in securing funding. The local

benefit of these schemes is accepted and it is therefore suggested that an allocation of £50,000 be made towards these schemes for Members to decide on their priorities. In 2007-08 a significant amount was spent on minor works schemes from the Safety and Maintenance budget and the backlog of schemes is now much reduced.

6. Proposed Allocation of Funding

- 6.1 Table 1 below gives the suggested split of funding based on the commentary above. The allocations will make a significant contribution towards the County Council meeting strategic objectives and targets in maintenance and safety.

Speed Limit Review	£170,000
Route Treatment	£50,000
Maintenance	£130,000
Local Schemes	£50,000
Total	£400,000

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8 November 2007