

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee**                      **Stratford Area Committee**

**Date of Committee**                      **14 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 Stratford 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 – comments incorporated.
- 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 19 March 2008.
- To Council  .....
- To Cabinet  .....
- To an O & S Committee  .....
- To an Area Committee  .....
- Further Consultation  .....

**Stratford Area Committee - 14 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 Stratford 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 Stratford area and makes proposals for outline allocations of the £400,000 in Stratford 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. 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 Stratford area. The likely costs of implementing the speed limit changes resulting from the technical review alone is £200,000. 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 £200,000 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 Although there are a number of activities that would benefit from extra maintenance funds in the Stratford Area, the biggest backlog is in carriageway maintenance. Although carriageway condition has improved in the last three years there is still about 17% of all roads in the District with substantial visible defects.
- 4.2 To illustrate the cost of the backlog, the initial list of surfacing schemes for consideration for 2008/09 (selected from the five year programme) would cost £2 million but the amount of funding likely to be available will only be around £1 million. In addition there is a backlog of sites that would benefit from a surface dressing.
- 4.3 Where backlogs of work exist the most cost effective carriageways treatments are surface dressing and micro asphalt, followed by resurfacing. Undertaking these treatments on appropriate roads result in reductions in potholes with a future decrease in patching (allowing other work to be carried out from the budget).
- 4.4 If Members make a maintenance allocation it is suggested that this is split between carriageway surface dressing, micro asphalt and surfacing with sites chosen that would give the biggest reduction on future patching need.

## 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 2007-8 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	£200,000
Route Treatment	£50,000
Maintenance(split 50/50 between footways and carriageways)	£100,000
Local Schemes	£50,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£400,000</b>

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30 October 2007