

Portfolio Holder Decisions/Leader Decisions

Date: Thursday 21 December 2023
Time: 11.00 am

Membership

Councillor Peter Butlin

Items on the agenda: -

1. **Approval for Applying for the Traffic Signal Grant Awards from DfT** 3 - 16

Monica Fogarty
Chief Executive
Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall, Warwick

Disclaimers

Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Members are required to register their disclosable pecuniary interests within 28 days of their election of appointment to the Council. Any changes to matters registered or new matters that require to be registered must be notified to the Monitoring Officer as soon as practicable after they arise.

A member attending a meeting where a matter arises in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest must (unless they have a dispensation):

- Declare the interest if they have not already registered it
- Not participate in any discussion or vote
- Leave the meeting room until the matter has been dealt with
- Give written notice of any unregistered interest to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the meeting

Non-pecuniary interests relevant to the agenda should be declared at the commencement of the meeting.

The public reports referred to are available on the Warwickshire Web
<https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1>

Portfolio Holder Decisions – Approval for Applying for the Traffic Signal Grant Awards from DfT

Portfolio Holders	Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property
Date of decision	21st December 2023
	Signed

1. Recommendations

That the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property

1. Approves the submission of a bid to the Department for Transport (DfT) Local Transport Capital Block Funding Specific Grant Determination (2023/24) for an additional sum to replace traffic signals and associated assets that are reaching obsolescence and delegates to the Executive Director for Communities in consultation with the s151 Officer the finalising of that bid on terms and conditions acceptable to the Executive Director for Resources.
2. Approves subject to the bid being successful, the addition to the Capital Programme of a project to upgrade traffic signals and the Urban Traffic Management Control System detailed in this report at a value of up to £601,700.

2. Reasons for recommendations

- 2.1 Under the County Council's Constitution authority has been given to the relevant Portfolio Holder to approve the submission of funding bids on behalf of the County Council. This report seeks approval in relation to a bid to the Department for Transport (DfT) Local Transport Capital Block Funding Specific Grant Determination (2023/24) for an additional sum for upgrading traffic signals and the Urban Traffic Management Control System.
- 2.2 On 16 May 2023 delegated power was reconfirmed to the Leader, or body nominated by them, to approve the addition to the Capital Programme of projects costing less than £2m which are fully funded from external grants, developer contributions or revenue. The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property is that nominated body.

3. Reasons for urgency

- 3.1 Due to the short notice period for applying to the fund and the work required to consider and prepare the funding application, it is not possible to comply with the usual rules around publication of reports, decisions and call in.
- 3.2 Pursuant to Standing Order 18 where a decision is urgent a decision can still be taken where the consent of the chair of a relevant overview and scrutiny committee consents and agrees that the decision cannot reasonably be deferred and should be treated as a matter of urgency.
- 3.3 A decision will be urgent if any delay likely to be caused by call-in would seriously prejudice the council or the public interest. In this case, call in would prevent the submission of a bid to the fund and thus prejudice delivery of the proposed project.

4. Background information

- 4.1 On 14 November 2023 the DfT informed the Council that, further to the Local Transport Capital Block Funding (Integrated Transport and Highway Maintenance) Specific Grant Determination for 2023/24, they are intending to award £70m in funding for the period 2024/25 to 2025/26 to English local transport authorities with responsibility for traffic signal maintenance and upgrades.
- 4.2 As part of the Department for Transport's Plan for Drivers, the "Traffic Signals Grant Awards" funds will be awarded to projects covering a range of solutions including upgrading traffic signal systems, replacing unreliable and obsolete equipment to improve reliability, tuning up signals to better reflect current traffic conditions and get traffic flowing, and the deployment of advanced technology to make use of emerging technologies to optimise traffic flow and balance traffic across city centres.
- 4.3 The sums available will be distributed through three separate funds that all English local highway and combined authorities outside London are eligible to apply for. The details of the three grants are listed within the financial section of this report.
- 4.4 The Council intends to seek funding of £500,000 from the challenge element of Traffic Signal Obsolescence Grant. Around 80 local authorities are expected to be awarded this funding based upon demonstration of appropriate policies and procedures through a challenge process as outlined in their document Annex A, which is attached to this report.
- 4.5 The application window for both the Traffic Signal Obsolescence Grant and Green Light Fund closes at noon on Friday 22nd December 2023.
- 4.6 The application process for Intelligent Traffic Management Fund is expected to open in April 2024 and further information will be provided by DfT nearer the time on the bidding process.

- 4.7 Approval is therefore sought initially to bid for £500,000 to the Traffic Signal Obsolescence Grant. This funding will enable the Council to address areas of greatest replacement need in respect of obsolescence assets associated with (i) remote monitoring system, (ii) traffic signal equipment and (iii) telecommunication network. The associated works will ensure that the sites covered will be working safely and effectively for all road users.
- 4.8 If the bid is successful, the projects covered by the grant will be added to the Capital Programme.

5. Financial implications

- 5.1 The first fund of £30 million is provided under the Traffic Signal Obsolescence Grant and forms two parts. The first part provides a share of £10 million to all authorities based upon the transport metrics within the Integrated Transport Block formula mechanism. The second part (£20 million) will be distributed as targeted funding awarded to areas with particular obsolescence issues through the set challenge process appended to this Report.
- 5.2 A further £20 million is available via the Green Light Fund to projects aiming to “tune up” traffic signals to better reflect current traffic conditions and get traffic flowing more smoothly through the network.
- 5.3 A further £20 million is available via the Intelligent Traffic Management Fund to projects seeking to deploy advanced technology for traffic signals, making use of emerging technologies to optimise traffic flow and balance traffic across city centres. The detailed requirements for bidding for the Intelligent Traffic Management Fund will be published in January 2024 and if appropriate authority will be sought to submit a further bid at that time.
- 5.4 Accordingly, the Council will automatically receive a share of the available fund of £10 million within the Traffic Signal Obsolescence Grant based upon the transport metrics within the Integrated Transport Block formula mechanism and which is calculated to be £101,700.
- 5.5 To receive the additional funding of £500,000 the Council must make an application for either the challenge element of Traffic Signal Obsolescence Grant or Green Light Fund (but not both). The Council has chosen to submit a bid to the Traffic Signal Obsolescence Grant.
- 5.6 If the Council’s application is successful funding is expected to be received in March 2024 and will be required to be spent in the period April 2024 to March 2026.
- 5.7 Any shortfall in funding for the proposed projects will be met from the Traffic Signal Block Header.

6. Environmental implications

6.1 Transport is the single largest cause of carbon emissions in the UK. Securing funding for upgrading existing infrastructure and the Urban Traffic Management Control System will enable us to ensure that the existing traffic signal junctions are working more effectively in order to reducing congestion thereby contributing to the reduction in carbon emissions as well as improved air quality.

Report Author	gafoordin@warwickshire.gov.uk Section Manager for Traffic Control and Information Systems
Director	Scott Tompkins – Director of Environment, Planning & Transport
Executive Director	Mark Ryder – Executive Director for Communities
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Peter Butlin Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property

Urgent matter?	Yes
Confidential or exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of background papers

Appendix 1 Annex A issued by DfT

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Jan Matecki

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Peter Butlin

Corporate Board – Mark Ryder

Legal – Nic Vine

Finance – Andrew Felton

Equality – Keira Rounsley

Democratic Services – Helen Barnsley

Councillors – Cllr Warwick (consent to urgency)

Local Member(s): n/a



Department
for Transport

Anthony Ferguson
Deputy Director
Traffic and Technology
Department for Transport
3/9 Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Web Site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: E/TSG23/01/

Date: 14 November 2023

To Chief Officers, recipient list attached.

**TRAFFIC SIGNALS GRANT AWARDS;
TRAFFIC SIGNAL OBSOLESCENCE GRANT
GREEN LIGHT FUND
INTELLIGENT TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT FUND**

I am delighted to inform you of our intention to award £70m funding for the period 2024/25 to 2025/26 to English local transport authorities with responsibility for traffic signal maintenance and upgrading. Three funds have been established;

- £30m **Traffic Signal Obsolescence Grant (TSOG)**, from the Local Transport Capital Block Funding (Integrated Transport and Highway Maintenance) Specific Grant Determination for 2023/24
- £20m **Green Light Fund (GLF)**
- £20m **Intelligent Traffic Management Fund (ITMF)**

We will automatically allocate £10m of TSOG funding to eligible local authorities currently in receipt of Highways Maintenance Block (HMB) and / or Integrated Transport Block (ITB) funding based on the transport metrics within the ITB formula mechanism. For the remaining £20m of TSOG and all of GLF, we will award additional funding in blocks of £500,000 to around 80 local authorities based on the demonstration of appropriate policies and procedures through a challenge process as outlined in Annex A of the General Guidance referred to below.

For TSOG and GLF, we will be working with the Local Council Roads Innovation Group (LCRIG) to collect evidence in response to the challenges set out in Annex A of the General Guidance. The process for making responses is via a secure, authority specific questionnaire hosted on the TTF website.

General Guidance for all three grant funds has been issued and is available at this address.

<https://tft.uk.net/traffic-signals-funding/>.

This address also permits access to the individual authority questionnaire pages to be used for responses. Unique login details for each authority will be made available by LCRIG in the coming days.

The application process for TSOG and GLF is open now, and will close at 1200 on the 22nd December 2023.

The application process for ITMF will open in April 2024 and further information will be provided nearer the time.

TSOG and GLF funding is being allocated specifically to address the backlog in obsolescence related or general traffic signal maintenance and upgrading works in English local authorities. It cannot be used to replace existing allocated resource but is funding for new work or additional 'top up' to existing programmes. Only one bid per highway authority area will be considered, so in areas where lead authority arrangements exist, or where traffic signals responsibility is shared, coordination of bidding will be required. The General Guidance sets out specific procedures for bids from Combined Authorities. Funding will be awarded based responses to the online questionnaire that demonstrate need and evidence an authority's understanding of their estate, maintenance priorities and policy vision. Detailed requirements for bids for ITMF will be published in January 2024.

Please note the Department intends to undertake out-turn monitoring of scheme delivery and outcome evaluation of scheme effectiveness and will require authorities to provide information for this purpose as required. We may also publish authorities' results on the Department's website or the website of the Transport Technology Forum.

For further details or if you have any queries about the grant process, please contact Darren Capes (Darren.capes@dft.gov.uk). For support with accessing the website and General Guidance, or for any questions relating to the completion of the questionnaires, please contact (signals_maintenance@lcrig.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Anthony Ferguson
Deputy Director, Traffic and Technology



Enclosed:

Annex A – Grant conditions
Annex B – List of recipients

ANNEX A - GRANT CONDITIONS

1. Grant paid to a local authority under this determination may be used only for the purposes that a capital receipt may be used for in accordance with regulations made under section 11 of the Local Government Act 2003.

2. A statement of grant usage for Local Authorities will be required. If the amount of grant paid to the authority in the year is more than £50,000, the authority must prepare, as soon as possible after all grant has been paid, a statement of grant usage giving details of eligible payments and sources of funding for work carried out on the submitted project or projects, in the years spanning 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2026. The statement must be signed by the Chief Financial Officer.

For grants of £100,000 and above, the authority must submit the statement of grant usage to its external auditor, together with a request that the external auditor should certify whether the entries on the statement are fairly stated in accordance with the grant terms and conditions.

Once these statements of grant usage have been prepared by the authority and certified as required by the Chief Financial Officer and the external auditor, they must be submitted to DfT as soon as possible.

3. If an authority fails to comply with any of the conditions and requirements of paragraphs 1 and 2, the Minister may-

- a) reduce, suspend or withhold grant; or
- a) by notification in writing to the authority, require the repayment of the whole or any part of the grant.

4. Any sum notified by the Minister under paragraph 3(b) shall immediately become repayable to the Minister.

ANNEX B – LIST OF RECIPIENTS

Council	Job Title
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Chief Executive
Bath and North East Somerset Council	Chief Executive
BCP Council	Chief Executive
Bedford Council	Chief Executive
Birmingham City Council	Chief Executive
Blackburn with Darwen Council	Chief Executive
Blackpool Council	Chief Executive
Bolton Council	Chief Executive
Bracknell Forest Borough Council	Chief Executive
Brighton and Hove City Council	Chief Executive
Bristol Council	Chief Executive
Buckinghamshire County Council	Chief Executive
Bury Council	Deputy Chief Executive
Calderdale Council	Chief Executive
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority	Chief Executive
Cambridgeshire County Council	Chief Executive
Central Bedfordshire Council	Chief Executive
Cheshire East Council	Chief Executive
Cheshire West and Chester Council	Deputy Chief Executive
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council	Chief Executive
City of Doncaster Council	Chief Executive
City of York Council	Chief Executive
Cornwall County Council	Chief Executive
Coventry City Council	Chief Executive
Cumberland Council	Chief Executive
Darlington Borough Council	Chief Executive
Derby City Council	Chief Executive
Derbyshire County Council	Chief Executive
Devon County Council	Chief Executive
Dorset County Council	Chief Executive
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	Chief Executive
Durham County Council	Chief Executive
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Chief Executive

East Sussex County Council	Chief Executive
Essex County Council	Chief Executive
Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council	Chief Executive
Gloucestershire County Council	Chief Executive
Halton Borough Council	Chief Executive
Hampshire County Council	Chief Executive
Hartlepool Borough Council	Chief Executive
Herefordshire County Council	Chief Executive
Hertfordshire County Council	Chief Executive
Hull City Council	Chief Executive
Isle of Wight Council	Chief Executive
Kent County Council	Chief Executive
Kirklees Council	Chief Executive
Knowsley Council	Chief Executive
Lancashire County Council	Chief Executive and Director of Resources
Leeds City Council	Chief Executive
Leicester City Council	Chief Operating Officer
Leicestershire County Council	Chief Executive
Lincolnshire County Council	Chief Executive
Liverpool City Council	Chief Executive
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority	Chief Executive
Luton Borough Council	Chief Executive
Manchester City Council	Chief Executive
Medway Council	Chief Executive
Middlesbrough Council	Chief Executive
Milton Keynes Council	Chief Executive
Newcastle City Council	Chief Executive
Norfolk County Council	Chief Executive
North East Combined Authority	Chief Executive
North East Lincolnshire Council	Chief Executive
North Lincolnshire Council	Chief Executive
North Northamptonshire Council	Chief Executive
North Somerset Council	Chief Executive
North Tyneside Council	Chief Executive
North Yorkshire County Council	Chief Executive
Northumberland County Council	Chief Executive

Nottingham City Council	Chief Executive
Nottinghamshire County Council	Chief Executive
Oldham Council	Chief Executive
Oxfordshire County Council	Chief Executive
Peterborough City Council	Chief Executive
Plymouth Council	Chief Executive
Portsmouth City Council	Chief Executive
Reading Council	Chief Executive
Redcar and Cleveland Council	Chief Executive
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council	Chief Executive
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Chief Executive
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead Council	Chief Executive
Rutland Council	Interim Chief Executive
Salford City Council	Chief Executive
Sandwell Metropolitan Council	Chief Executive
Sefton Council	Chief Executive
Sheffield City Council	Chief Executive
Shropshire Council	Chief Executive
Slough Council	Chief Executive
Solihull Council	Chief Executive
Somerset County Council	Chief Executive
South Gloucestershire Council	Chief Executive
South Tyneside Council	Chief Executive
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority	Chief Executive
Southampton City Council	Chief Executive
Southend-on-Sea City Council	Chief Executive
St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council	Chief Executive
Staffordshire County Council	Leader
Stockport Council	Chief Executive
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	Chief Executive
Stoke-on-Trent Council	City Director
Suffolk County Council	Chief Executive
Sunderland City Council	Chief Executive
Surrey County Council	Chief Executive
Swindon Borough Council	Chief Executive
Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council	Chief Executive

Tees Valley Combined Authority	Chief Executive
Telford & Wrekin Council	Chief Executive
Thurrock Council	Managing Director
Torbay Council	Interim Chief Executive
Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council	Chief Executive
Transport for Greater Manchester (Combined Authority)	Chief Executive
Transport for West Midlands	Chief Executive
Wakefield Council	Chief Executive
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council	Chief Executive
Warrington Borough Council	Chief Executive
Warwickshire County Council	Chief Executive
West Berkshire Council	Chief Executive
West Northamptonshire Council	Chief Executive
West of England Combined Authority	Chief Executive
West Sussex County Council	Chief Executive
West Yorkshire Combined Authority	Chief Executive
Westmorland and Furness Council	Chief Executive
Wigan Council	Chief Executive
Wiltshire Council	Chief Executive
Wirral Council	Chief Executive
Wokingham Borough Council	Chief Executive
Wolverhampton City Council	Chief Executive
Worcestershire County Council	Chief Executive

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CONSENT TO URGENT DECISION	PART 1 (to be completed by the person seeking consent)	
Proposed Decision Maker (please name person or body proposing to take decision, if an officer also state title)	Date for Decision	
Portfolio Holder for transport and planning Portfolio Holder for finance and property	20.12.2023	
Title: Approval for Applying for the Traffic Signal Grant Awards from DfT		
Summary of matter		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the County Council's Constitution authority has been given to the relevant Portfolio Holder to approve the submission of funding bids on behalf of the County Council. This report seeks approval in relation to a bid to the Department for Transport (DfT) Local Transport Capital Block Funding Specific Grant Determination (2023/24) for an additional sum for upgrading traffic signals and the Urban Traffic Management Control System. On 14 May 2021 Council reconfirmed the delegated power to the Leader, or body nominated by them, to approve the addition to the Capital Programme of projects costing less than £2m which are fully funded from external grants, developer contributions or revenue. The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property is that nominated body. Approval is given to bid for the Traffic Signal Obsolescence Grant for approximate value of £500,000. This will address where our greatest need is to replace our obsolescence assets and if successful add the grants to the Capital Programme for expenditure. 		
Proposed Decision		
<p>1.1 That the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning gives approval for bidding for the Department for Transport (DfT) Local Transport Capital Block Funding Specific Grant Determination (2023/24) for an additional sum for (i) Traffic Signal Obsolescence Grant, (ii) Green Light Fund and (iii) Intelligent Traffic Management Fund, subject to sign off by the Section 151 Officer.</p> <p>1.2 Subject to the successful bid, that the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property gives approval to the addition to the Capital Programme of the DfT Grant for the purpose of upgrading traffic signal and the Urban Traffic Management Control System.</p>		
Reasons for urgency		
An urgent decision is required as there has been limited time to prepare the bid from the announcement of the fund on 14 November 2023 to the deadline for receipt of bids on 22 December 2023		

Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision]	
No	
PART 2 (to be completed by the person giving consent)	
Name	Councillor Adrian Warwick
Office Held	Chair of the Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee
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Date consent is given	18/12/2023