

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Cabinet	
MEETING DATE:	10 th April 2013	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2526
TITLE:	Highway Structural Maintenance Capital Programme for 2013/2014	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix 1: Recommended Highway Structural Maintenance Programme 2013/14 Appendix 2: Feedback from Ward Member and Parish/Town Council Consultation		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 This report sets out the details of the proposed Highway Structural Maintenance Programme 2013/14 for approval. The programme follows the policies of both the Joint Local Transport and Joint Local Asset Management Plans for Bath & North East Somerset in accordance with Government guidelines.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet agrees:

2.1 The Highway Structural Maintenance Programme for 2013/14 as set out in Appendix 1.

2.2 The Divisional Director, Environmental Services and the Service Manager, Highways be delegated authority to alter the programme, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, as may prove necessary during 2013/14 within the overall budget allocation.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The Structural Maintenance Block Final Capital Grant Settlement confirmed by the Department for Transport (DfT) on 29th March 2012 based on a National formula was set at £3.667million. Additional Highway Maintenance Capital Funding was announced in the Autumn Statement and confirmed by the DfT as £663k on 18th December 2012, together with a forecast £173k slippage from the 12/13 Highway Structures Programme (pending carry forward approval in the July outturn report to Cabinet) taking the full 2013/2014 programme total to £4.503million.

3.2 The full funding allocation was presented to the Capital Strategy Group at a PID Meeting on Tuesday 8th January 2013.

- 3.3 In order to manage the budget effectively regular monthly monitoring will be carried out and exceptions reported to the Cabinet Member, with reporting to Transport Board on a quarterly basis. Spending will be managed throughout the year to ensure that the overall budget is spent in a timely manner and programme changes approved through delegated decision making.

4 CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

(1) Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone

The proposed programme will help ensure the transport network of roads and footways are maintained to suitable levels.

In line with good asset management practices, for example the proposed programme will ensure that the highway network across the whole of Bath & North East Somerset is maintained to a serviceable level in accordance with statutory requirements.

(2) Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live

Improved street lighting leads to people in communities feeling more safe and secure.

By improving the overall condition of the highway network it serves to minimise road works with associated traffic disruption and addresses poor and visually unattractive surfaces and end of life assets.

(3) Building a stronger economy

The highway forms an important part of the infrastructure and local environment to ensure sustainable growth across the Authority's area and is crucial in maintaining the local economy.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 The proposed programme of priority works across all highway asset groups namely carriageways, footways, structures (bridges, retaining walls, embankments & culverts), drainage and electrical infrastructure has been identified through routine inspection, monitoring and evaluation.
- 5.2 On-going capital investment in highway assets is an important factor in mitigating depreciation through general wear and the ageing process. Conditions of assets are monitored through the use of National Indicators, for carriageways in particular NI168 (Principal roads where maintenance should be considered) and NI169 (Non-principal classified roads where maintenance should be considered).
- 5.3 Appendix 1 shows indicative spending on schemes for 2013/14 only. Following the government's Comprehensive Spending Review, Capital Grant Settlement confirmed figures have been set for 2013 to 2015 with Additional Funding announced in the Autumn Statement 2012.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The report author and Lead Cabinet member have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.
- 6.2 In the event of scheme cost variations, the programme will be re-prioritised to ensure that allocations are fully spent but not exceeded.

7 EQUALITIES

The proposed programme of works is compiled on a priority maintenance need and helps maintain and improve accessibility.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed. No adverse or other significant issues were found.

8 RATIONALE

8.1 The proposed programme of work has been developed in accordance with priorities set out in the Local Transport Plan and sound asset management principles.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 None.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 Ward Councillor; Cabinet members; Parish Councils; Town Councils; Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer

10.2 A consultation has been carried out on the 2013/14 programme with the Cabinet Member for Transport and engagement with Ward Members and Parish Councils undertaken in February 2013 by e-mail. All proposed carriageway surfacing and surface treatment schemes were published on the Council's Internet Mapping System as part of this exercise. Appendix 2 of the report sets out the feedback received as a result of this consultation.

11 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

11.1 Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Young People; Human Rights; Corporate; Health & Safety.

12 ADVICE SOUGHT

12.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer, Divisional Director and Section 151 Officer have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

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Sponsoring Cabinet Member	Councillor Roger Symonds – Cabinet Member for Transport
Background papers	
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	