

Bath & North East Somerset Council

DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Councillor Charles Gerrish, Cabinet Member for Service Delivery Cllr Malcolm Hanney, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Resources		
DECISION DATE:	On or after 26 th March 2011	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:	
		E	2241
TITLE:	Highway Capital Structural Maintenance Programme 2011/12		
WARD:	All		
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM			
List of attachments to this report: Appendix 1: Recommended Highway Structural Maintenance Programme 2011/12			

1.0 THE ISSUE

1.1 This report sets out the details within the Highway Structural Maintenance Programme for approval. The programme of expenditure is aimed to develop the policies of both the Joint Local Transports and Joint Local Asset Management Plans for Bath & North East Somerset in accordance with Government guidelines.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet members are asked to agree:

2.1 The Highway Structural Maintenance Programme for 2011/12 as set out in Appendix 1.

2.2 The Service Manager, Highways and Parking be delegated authority to alter the programme, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Service Delivery, as may prove necessary during 2011/12 within the overall budget allocation.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Structural Maintenance Block Capital Grant Settlement confirmed by the Department of Transport in December 2010 based on a National formula was set at £4.016million. The Council Cabinet through its annual budget setting has allocated an additional £1million to the Highways Structural Maintenance Programme, making of total £5.016million.
- 3.2 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.

4.0 CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- *Building communities where people feel safe and secure*
Improved street lighting leads to people in communities feeling more safe and secure.
- *Promoting the independence of older people*
Ensuring the transport network of roads and footways are maintained to suitable levels.
- *Sustainable growth*
The highway forms an important part of the infrastructure and local environment to ensure sustainable growth across the Authority and is crucial in maintaining the local economy.
- *Improving transport and the public realm*
In line with good asset management practise ensure that the highway network across the whole of Bath & North East Somerset is maintained to a serviceable level in accordance with statutory requirements. By improving the overall condition of the highway network it serves to minimise road works with associated traffic disruption; addresses poor & visually unattractive surfaces and end of life assets.

5.0 THE REPORT

- 5.1 The 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 ongoing inspection, monitoring and evaluation.
- 5.2 Ongoing capital investment in highway assets is an important factor in mitigating depreciation through general wear and the ageing process. Conditions of assets are assessed globally 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 2011/12 only. Following the Government's comprehensive spending review Capital Grant Settlement Funding for 2012/13 has been finalised with indicative figures being provided for 2013/15.

6.0 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The report author and 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.

7.0 EQUALITIES

- 7.1 The programme of works is compiled on a priority maintenance need so has no personal equalities discrimination aspect.

8.0 RATIONALE

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

9.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 None

10.0 CONSULTATION

- 10.1 Ward Councillors; Cabinet Members; Parish Council; Town Council; Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer.
- 10.2 A consultation was carried out on the 2011/12 programme with the Cabinet Member for Service Delivery, and engagement with Ward Members and Parish Councils undertaken early in March 2011 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.

11.0 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

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

12.0 ADVICE SOUGHT

- 12.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services Vernon Hitchman and Section 151 Officer Divisional Director – Finance Tim Ritchens have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

Contact person	Craig Jackson – Team Leader for Highway Maintenance and Public Rights of Way. Tel. 01225 394269 email: craig_jackson@bathnes.gov.uk
Background papers	
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	