

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 25 April 2017

Subject: Epping Forest Local Highways panel – Match Funding

Portfolio Holder: Councillor G Waller (Safer, Greener & Transport)

Recommending:

(1) That a supplementary District Development Fund estimate in the sum of £50,000 for 2017/18 be agreed to match fund the contribution from Essex County Council to the Epping Forest Local Highways Panel in order to implement Highway Improvement Schemes across the District.

1. The Epping Forest Local Highway Panel was formed in 2009 when the membership and constitutional arrangements proposed under the Essex Localism Agenda were agreed. The scope and membership of the Panel has since changed, however its focus remains the delivery of highway improvement schemes within the District. The current membership of the Panel consists of the District's seven County Council members and an equal number of District Council members, and in 2016/17 was allocated a budget of £450,000 by the Essex County Council (ECC) to carry out capital improvement schemes.

2. The Panel can only undertake capital improvement schemes, all revenue and maintenance schemes are delivered directly by Essex Highways, and the types of schemes that the Panel can undertake include:

- (a) passenger transport;
- (b) public rights of way schemes;
- (c) traffic management schemes; and
- (d) walk way schemes.

In addition the Panel keeps an oversight on any highway related Section 106 schemes as well as the work of the Highway Rangers.

3. Although the Panel has a significant budget allocation, there is a high demand for highway improvement and new road safety schemes, which forces scheme prioritisation and some schemes lose out. There are currently 50 approved, both minor and major, highway schemes on the work programme, with a further potential 49 schemes that the Panel will review for consideration for 2017/18.

4. Last year the Council match funded the County Council's £50,000 for highway improvements. This funding enabled feasibility studies, detailed designs and the

implementation of capital schemes. The schemes funded through the match funding budget are listed below:

- Honey Lane (east of Wood Green Road), Waltham Abbey.
- A121 Woodricken Hill approach to Wakes Arms Roundabout.
- B 181 Epping Upland by Chambers Manor.
- Alderton Hill junction with Alderton Hall Lane, Loughton.
- Middle Street Nazeing – South of golf course entrance.
- B 181 Epping Road junction with Common Road, Broadley Common.
- Traps Hill junction Rowans Way and Church Lane, Loughton.
- Horseshoe Hill, Waltham Abbey.
- Reeves Lane/Typers Road/Hamlet Hill, Roydon Hamlet.
- Alderton Hall lane/Alderton Hill, Loughton.
- Vicarage Lane junction with Manor Road.
- A113 Abridge Road, Chigwell.
- Moreton Bridge, Moreton Road, Moreton.
- Ivy Chimney Road, Epping – installation of a bus cage.
- Daws Hill/Sewardstone Road, Sewardstone.
- St Leonards Road.
- A113 Ongar Road, Abridge.
- Ivy Chimneys Primary School, Centre Drive, Epping.
- B1393 London Road junction with access to MacDonalds – pedestrian safety scheme.
- Milton Crescent – Shelley Primary School.
- Church Road, Moreton.

5. The County Council Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation, Councillor Eddie Johnson, wrote to the Leader of the Council on 3 March 2017 letter attached at appendix) and offered to match fund up to £50,000 of District Council contribution to the Panel. Given that the additional funding, £100,000 in total, will enable the delivery of a number of priority schemes which would otherwise not be possible, the Cabinet agreed at its meeting on 6 April 2017 to accept the offer of match funding by Essex County Council.

6. A District Development Fund allocation of £50,000 will be required to match fund the contribution made by Essex County Council. This is being requested as a supplementary estimate as the offer from the Essex County Council was made on 3 March, after this Council's budget for 2017/18 had been set on 21 February 2017.

7. We recommend as set out at the commencement of this report.