

## ***Report to the Council***

**Committee:** Cabinet

**Date:** 01 November 2018

**Subject:** Epping Forest Local Highways Panel

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor S Kane (Safer, Greener & Transport)

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### **Recommending:**

**That a District Development Fund supplementary estimate in the sum of £100,000 in 2018/19 be approved to match fund the contribution from Essex County Council for the Epping Forest Local Highways Panel to implement highway improvement schemes within the District.**

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1. The Epping Forest Local Highways Panel (LHP) was formed in 2009. It consists of eight elected Councillors, four from Essex County Council and four from Epping Forest District Council. The Panel is supported by Essex Highways and carries out highway improvement schemes within the District.

2. The County Council has offered to match fund £100,000 for the LHP to implement schemes within the District. If match funding is agreed by the Council then a number of highway schemes will be enabled in the District which would otherwise not get funding.

### Background

3. The LHP can only undertake capital improvement schemes, all revenue and maintenance schemes are delivered directly by Essex Highways, and the types of schemes that the LHP can undertake include: Passenger transport, public rights of way schemes, traffic management and 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.

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.

5. Although the LHP has significant budget allocation there is high demand for highway improvement and new road safety schemes. This forces scheme prioritisation and some schemes lose out. There are currently a total of 28 schemes on the Approved Works Programme of the Panel. The total cost of these schemes will be known once these go through the various stages of validation: feasibility, site investigation and cost estimation. It is understood that in the absence of match funding from the Council not all of these schemes, or any new ones, could be funded in 2018/19.

6. The County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation, Councillor Kevin Bentley wrote to the Leader of the Council on 24 May 2018, offering to match fund up to £100,000 of District Council contribution to the Panel. Given that

all the available budget for the LHP has been committed the additional funding, £200,000 in total, will enable the delivery of a number of priority schemes which would otherwise not be possible. It is recommended that the Council accepts the offer of match funding by ECC.

7. The District Development Fund does not currently have enough resources available to meet this expenditure. If Members are minded to agree the recommendation in this report DDF monies allocated to other projects may need to be reallocated to fund this expenditure.

8. The Epping Forest Local Highways Panel has currently allocated all existing budget for schemes for 2018/19. By agreeing the recommendation in this report a sum of £200,000 will be available to the Panel to approve additional schemes.

### **Conclusion**

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