

Report to: Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment

Date of meeting: 20 March 2017

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Allocation of the 2017/18 Community Match Funding to a number of community led local transport schemes

Purpose: To seek approval for the proposed allocation of match funding to a number of community led local transport improvement schemes

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Lead Member is recommended to:

- (1) Agree that £80,000 of match funding should be allocated towards two further specific community led transport improvement schemes for which design work has now been completed, for their construction in 2017/18;**
 - (2) Agree that £29,600 of match funding should be allocated towards five specific community led transport improvement schemes for construction in 2017/18;**
 - (3) Agree that two applicants should be advised that it is not yet possible to take a decision on match funding and that they should commission feasibility studies for their schemes;**
 - (4) Agree that the application for reduced speed limits in Piltdown should not be taken forward; and**
 - (5) Agree that the balance unallocated from the match funding available in 2017/18 should be held for potential allocation to schemes later this year.**
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1 Background Information

1.1 The Community Match was launched in 2014 and provided a mechanism under which we have worked with communities to take forward their locally important small scale transport improvements that were not of sufficient priority to be delivered using County Council funding alone. To date £100,000 of capital funding has been allocated annually for taking these schemes forward.

1.2 Since its launch there have been 31 applications for Community Match funding; 20 schemes have been approved to be taken forward, and to date 13 schemes have been completed. Whilst Community Match has successfully delivered a wide range of local transport improvements that have made a real difference to communities, a number of issues have arisen in the development and delivery of some of these schemes. With the award of the new Highways Contract to the Costain/CH2M Joint Venture, we have taken the opportunity to review the operation of Community Match, evaluate the previous issues that have arisen to learn lessons and improve the offer to our communities. A summary of the review is included at Appendix 1.

2 Supporting Information

2.1 A sum of £250,000 has been allocated from the County Council's 2017/18 Capital Programme for Local Transport Improvements to match fund improvement schemes that are to be developed and implemented through the Community Match Fund. The funding that was unallocated in 2016/17 has also been rolled forward into 2017/18, giving a total of £302,437 available to take forward schemes in this financial year.

2.2 The issues surrounding Community Match as well as existing and potential schemes were considered by a Cross Party Member Panel, consisting of Councillors Stogdon, O'Keeffe, St Pierre and Pursglove on 20 February 2017. Details of all the current Community Match schemes and the assessments/recommendations for the new applications are at Appendix 2.

2.3 Two of the schemes approved for design work in the previous funding round considered by the Lead Member at his decision making meeting on 14 March 2016 are now ready to be

considered for the match funding to enable them to be constructed. Accordingly, members of the Panel agreed that a recommendation should be made to the Lead Member that the following two schemes had now progressed sufficiently and should be approved for match funding and taken forward to construction:

- St Andrews School Zebra Crossing, Eastbourne £20,000
- Brighton Road Lewes Puffin Crossing, Lewes £60,000

2.4 Nine new applications were received within this funding round. The new applications were assessed against the County Council's policies and the agreed criteria that are used to establish which schemes should be a priority for possible funding through the Community Match. Following consideration of the new applications, the Panel agreed that the following recommendations should be made to the Lead Member:

- The following four applications, which scored highest in the priority assessment, should be approved for the following match funding amounts and taken forward for design and construction:
 - Coopers Green Road speed limit reduction £4,500
 - Cripps Corner Road Layby £13,500
 - Catsfield school buildout and speed limit £8,500
 - Sacred Heart School flashing signs £3,100
- Officers discuss the identified concerns about the application for a lower speed limit on Bird In Eye Hill in Framfield with the Parish Council and local Member to ensure they were aware of the potential risks. Subject to the outcome of these discussions the application could be considered for the allocation of match funding later in 2017/18.
- Application for tourist information signs, to be fully funded by Seaford Town Council be approved to be implemented through the Community Match mechanism and at nil cost to the County Council.
- The following two applications were not yet at a stage where a decision could be taken on allocating match funding towards them and therefore both the applicants are advised to commission a feasibility study to define the scope and potential cost of the scheme and, subject to the outcome of these feasibility studies as well as local consultation, these applications could then be considered for the allocation of match funding later in 2017/18.
 - Sevenoaks Road pedestrian crossing/traffic calming, Eastbourne;
 - Plumpton speed limit reductions
- The application for lower speed limits on Shortbridge Road and Golf Club Lane in Piltdown should not be taken forward in light of officer concerns about the potential adverse impacts.

2.5 Members of the panel also agreed to recommend to the Lead Member that the remaining unallocated balance of match funding available in 2016/17 should be held for allocation to Community Match Schemes later in the 2017/18 financial year.

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 Following the outcomes of the Cross Party Member Panel held on 20 February 2017, it is recommended that the Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment agree the allocation of £80,000 of match funding to the St Andrews zebra crossing, Eastbourne, and Brighton Road puffin crossing, Lewes community match schemes for construction in 2017/18.

3.2 It is also recommended that the Lead Member agrees to the allocation of £29,600 of match funding to the five community led local transport improvements identified in section 2.4 of the report for design and construction in 2017/18, and that a decision on whether match funding should be allocated to allow the Bird In Eye Hill scheme to proceed in 2017-18 should be taken at a future meeting:

3.3 Furthermore it is recommended that the applicants for the Sevenoaks Road pedestrian crossing/traffic calming and Plumpton speed limit applications should be advised to commission a feasibility study and subject to the outcome of that work, a decision about whether match funding

should be allocated to allow them to be implemented in 2017-18 could be taken at a future meeting.

3.4 It is also recommended that the Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment should agree that the application for speed limit reductions in Piltdown should not be taken forward.

3.5 Furthermore, it is recommended that the balance of funds which would remain unallocated from the match funding available in 2017/18 should be held for the potential allocation to Community Match Schemes later this year.

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LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillors Galley, O’Keeffe, Dowling, Standley, Sheppard, Shuttleworth, Davies, Field, Lambert, Carstairs, Charlton

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None