

Report to: Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
Date of meeting: 23 March 2015
By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport
Title: Allocation of the 2015/16 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 agree that:

- (1) £5,000 of match funding should be allocated towards three specific community led transport improvement schemes for construction in 2015/16;
 - (2) Development work on three other schemes should be initiated for possible match funding later in 2015/16;
 - (3) Development work on three other previously approved schemes should be completed for possible match funding later in 2015/16; and
 - (4) The remaining unallocated £108,607 from the match funding available in 2015/16 should be held for potential allocation to schemes in the next round of funding in September 2015.
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1 Background

1.1 A sum of £100,000 has been allocated in the County Council's 2015/16 capital programme for local transport improvements to match fund community led improvement schemes that require highway design and construction work. Additionally £13,607 of funding that was unallocated in 2014/15 has been rolled forward to 2015/16 which means that the total amount of East Sussex County Council capital funding that is available in 2015-16 to allocate to new schemes is £113,607. For schemes that are selected to be taken forward through the Community Match initiative, the County Council will contribute up to 50% of the design and construction costs, with the remainder being met by the local community. If an amount totalling £5,000 is allocated towards specific schemes then the balance of £108,607 could be held for potential allocation to Community Match Schemes in the next funding round in September 2015.

2 Supporting Information

2.1 Twelve applications for consideration within the first round of funding for 2015-16 were received by the deadline of 31 December 2014. Ten of the twelve applications qualify to be considered through the Community Match initiative in terms of their scope and the local community's commitment in principle to part fund the proposals. Of the other two schemes, one is 100% funded by the County Council Education Department and therefore will be taken forward outside of the Community Match initiative. The remaining scheme would involve a road closure to vehicular traffic which is not considered acceptable on highway grounds. The applications were assessed using the scheme prioritisation criteria approved by the Lead Member at his decision making meeting on 21 July 2014. The results of the assessment are shown in Appendix 1.

2.2 The applications and the results of the scheme prioritisation assessment were considered by a Cross Party Member Panel, consisting of Councillors Maynard, Stogdon, St Pierre, Hodges, O'Keeffe and Pursglove, on 18 February 2015.

2.3 Eight of the new applications are for schemes which require initial design work to enable them to be constructed later in 2015-16. Under the Community Match Initiative, the first phase of design work is paid for wholly by the local community. Members of the panel agreed that a recommendation should be made to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment that development work on three schemes should be initiated, however a decision would have to be taken at a future meeting of the member panel in September 2015 about whether the match funding required to enable them to be constructed should be allocated to each of them.

2.4 The application for a rush barrier and area of footway at St Philips school in Uckfield is to be fully funded by the school governors and double yellow lines in Forest Row are to be fully funded by the Parish Council. Members of the panel agreed that a recommendation should be made to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment that both these schemes should be taken forward to design and construction.

2.5 There are also four schemes that were approved for design work within the first funding round (September 2014). Work has since progressed on these four schemes and the Wych Cross speed limit reduction scheme is ready to be considered for the match funding to enable it to be constructed. Members of the panel agreed that a recommendation should be made to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment that the Wych Cross scheme should receive match funding and be taken forward to construction.

2.6 Members of the panel further agreed that a recommendation should be made to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment that development work on the other three schemes should be completed, however a decision would have to be taken at a future meeting of the member panel in September 2015 about whether the match funding required to enable them to be constructed should be allocated to each of them in 2015-16.

2.7 Five schemes were not recommended to be taken forward at this time; however they will be kept on record and reconsidered within the next funding round in September 2015.

2.8 Members of the panel also agreed to recommend to the Lead Member that the balance of £108,607 should be held for allocation to Community Match Schemes in the next funding round in September 2015.

3 Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

3.1 In line with the recommendations of the Cross Party Member Panel, it is recommended that the Lead Member agrees to the allocation of £5,000 of match funding to the following three community led local transport improvements:

- 50mph speed limit on the A22 south of Wych Cross (£5,000 match funding)
- St. Philips School, Uckfield – barrier/footway (£0 match funding - fully funded by school governors)
- Forest Row - Double Yellow Lines (£0 match funding - fully funded by Parish Council)

3.2 It is also recommended that the Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment should agree that development work on the following three schemes should be initiated, but that a decision about whether match funding should be allocated to allow them to be implemented in 2015/16 should be taken at a future cross party member panel meeting.

- Kingston and Cranedown - pedestrian island and footway
- C7 Northease-Rodmell footway
- Withyham, Blackham-Ashurst footway along A264

3.3 It is also recommended that the Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment should agree that development work on the following three schemes that were approved in September 2014 should be completed, but that a decision about whether match funding should be allocated to allow them to be implemented in 2015-16 should be taken at a future cross party member panel meeting.

- Footway and gateway features Sedlescombe village
- New footway along Cottage Lane Westfield
- Pedestrian crossing and traffic calming outside Wadhurst Church of England School in Wadhurst

3.4 It is further recommended that the £108,607 which would remain unallocated from the £113,607 of match funding available in 2015/16 should be held for potential allocation to Community Match Schemes in the next funding round in September 2015.

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LOCAL MEMBERS:

Councillor Bennett	Councillor Claire Dowling	Councillor Glazier	Councillor Standley
Councillor Butler	Councillor Davies	Councillor O'Keeffe	Councillor Sheppard
Councillor Charlton	Councillor Galley	Councillor Maynard	Councillor Whetstone

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None