

**Report to:** Lead Member for Transport and Environment

**Date of meeting:** 11 December 2023

**By:** Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

**Title:** Community Match Schemes for 2024/25

**Purpose:** To consider expenditure for 2024/25 as contribution towards Community Match schemes

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Lead Member is recommended to:

- (1) Agree that £20,000 of match funding is allocated towards the Etchingham Community Match speed reduction scheme for detailed design work and construction in 2024/25;**
  - (2) Agree that £11,500 of match funding is allocated towards the Icklesham Parish Council Community Match bus stop and accessibility improvement scheme for detailed design work and construction in 2024/25;**
  - (3) Agree that £1,930 of match funding is allocated towards Pett Parish Council for the Community Match application for the installation of 13 bollards along a popular walking route;**
  - (4) Delegate authority to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport to approve the 50% match funding contribution for the schemes in recommendations 1 and 2, up to a maximum contribution of £60,000 per scheme once the design and construction costs are known; and**
  - (5) Delegate authority to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport to agree the terms and conditions of the grant funding agreement with Pett Parish Council for the £1,930 grant from the Community Match funding allocation towards the scheme as set out in recommendation 3.**
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## **1 Background Information**

1.1. The Community Match initiative was launched by the County Council in 2014. The initiative offers the opportunity for local communities in East Sussex (typically a Parish or Town Council or community group) to take forward schemes identified as a local priority, but not assessed to be of sufficient priority to be delivered using County Council funding alone through the Council's capital programme of local transport improvements.

1.2. The Community Match process begins with a feasibility study to assist parishes and communities in identifying possible solutions to locally identified traffic or transport issues and determining cost estimates. The feasibility study is undertaken by East Sussex Highways and is funded by the Parish or Town Council, residents' group or organisation promoting the scheme. Many potential schemes do not progress beyond the feasibility stage as it becomes clear that the scheme is not feasible or would be too expensive to deliver using parish funding, or there is no agreement among local residents and businesses about the scheme proposals.

1.3. If a Parish or Town Council or community group support the measures suggested in the feasibility appraisal, they can apply to the County Council for Community Match funds to take the scheme forward to detailed design and construction. The maximum financial input from the County Council is £60,000 per scheme, which needs to be matched by the Parish Council or community group. The feasibility appraisals are only able to give approximate scheme costs and more detailed scheme costs can be provided to applicants as more design work is undertaken. As part of the Community Match funding applications, the relevant County Councillors are asked whether they are supportive of the proposed Community Match schemes in their division.

1.4. The delivery of Community Match Schemes will help contribute towards the County Council priorities of making best use of resources now and for the future and keeping vulnerable people safe.

## 2 Supporting Information

### Community Match Schemes for 2024/2025

2.1. A sum of £250,000 has been allocated from East Sussex County Council's (ESCC) 2024/25 Capital Programme for Local Transport Improvements to match-fund improvement schemes of local importance through the Community Match programme. Any in-year underspend will continue to be reallocated to fund additional community focused road safety interventions and schemes.

2.2. Although there have been many Community Match feasibility studies requested, only three applications have been received requesting funding to take schemes forward. It is important that projects have strong support from the local community and that they comply with relevant County Council policies.

2.3. A summary of the schemes, together with estimated total costs, community contribution and Community Match Fund contributions, is shown below. The community contribution will be at least 50% of the detailed design and construction costs for each scheme. The final costs will likely vary from the current estimate once the detailed design has been undertaken and the scheme fully costed. Therefore, the level of Community Match Fund contribution allocated to each project, with a maximum contribution of £60,000 per project, may change depending on the final cost. The County Councillor for each of the schemes has indicated their support.

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Total cost</b>	<b>Community contribution</b>	<b>ESCC Community Match Fund contribution</b>
<p>Etchingam Parish Council – Introduction of two sections of 40mph speed limits along the A265.</p> <p>Speed limit reductions implemented between the eastern end of Etchingam and Hurst Green and between the western end of Etchingam and Burwash.</p> <p>The scheme would be delivered through the East Sussex Highways contract.</p>	circa £40,000	£20,000	£20,000
<p>Icklesham Parish Council – Scheme to improve a bus stop in Sea Road, Winchelsea.</p> <p>High access kerbing to be introduced to improve accessibility and aid passengers alighting the busses. New kerbing to be installed and a replacement to existing bus stop post and re-erection of existing flag, timetable and litter bin.</p> <p>The scheme would be delivered through the East Sussex Highways contract. Assets to be owned and maintained by ESCC.</p>	circa £23,000	£11,500	£11,500

Pett Parish Council – Introduction of 13 Passive bollards on a highways verge to improve accessibility and visibility along a popular walking route.	£3,860.00	£1,930.00	£1,930.00
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### *Risks*

2.4 Communities will be recharged their share of the detailed design and construction work. In addition, for Community Match schemes there is a notable risk around delivering schemes that include speed limit or parking changes which require a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), and the increase in costs that comes with delivering these types of schemes due to the additional resource and administration required. If formal objections to TROs are received and cannot be resolved by discussion with the objector, they must be considered by the Planning Committee. This process adds both time and cost to the scheme.

### **3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations**

3.1. The Community Match programme continues to provide the opportunity for Town or Parish councils, local resident groups and organisations to secure match funding to enable local priority schemes to be delivered which otherwise would not come forward using County Council funding alone through the capital programme of local transport improvements. From the £250,000 allocation for 2024/25, there is sufficient funding available to provide the community match funding required to deliver the schemes that have submitted applications.

3.2. Therefore, the Lead Member is recommended to allocate £20,000 of community match funding to the speed reduction scheme in Etchingam on the A265, £11,500 to the bus stop improvement scheme in Icklesham, and £1,930 for the installation of bollards in Pett Parish.

3.3. Delegation has been requested to pass authority to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport who will progress schemes to the next stage, without the need to present at Lead Member again.

### **RUPERT CLUBB**

Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

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### LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Elanor Kirby-Green  
Councillor Keith Glazier

### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Etchingam Feasibility Study  
Icklesham Feasibility Study  
Pett Parish Council Licence Agreement