

Report to: Lead Member for Transport and Environment

Date of meeting: 20 October 2025

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Community Match Schemes for 2025/26

Purpose: To consider expenditure for 2025/26 as contribution towards Community Match schemes

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Lead Member is recommended to:

- (1) Agree that £15,000 (subject to detail design and any unforeseen circumstances) of match funding is allocated towards the Catsfield Community Match speed reduction scheme for detailed design work and construction in 2025/26;**
 - (2) Agree that £25,000 (subject to detail design and any unforeseen circumstances) of match funding is allocated towards the Ewhurst Community Match layby scheme for detailed design work and construction in 2025/26; and**
 - (3) 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 (including contingencies) per scheme once the design and construction costs are known.**
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1 Background Information

1.1. The Community Match initiative was launched by East Sussex County Council (ESCC) in 2014. The initiative offered 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/Town Council, residents' group, or organisations 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's priorities of making the best use of resources now and for the future, and keeping vulnerable people safe.

2 Supporting Information

Community Match Schemes for 2025/2026

2.1. The Community Match funding scheme has now ended. The County Council will still honour all applications submitted before the decision was made to close the scheme.

2.2. Two 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 cost, community contribution and Community Match Fund contribution, 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 respective local County Councillor for each of the schemes have indicated their support.

| Scheme | Total cost | Community contribution | ESCC Community Match Fund contribution |
|---|-------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Catsfield Parish Council – Introduction of a 30mph speed limit along part of the B2044 and along the B2095, north of Catsfield. The scheme would be delivered through the East Sussex Highways contract. | Circa £30,000 | £15,000 | £15,000 |
| Ewhurst Parish Council – Introduction of a 30mph speed limit along part of the B2044 and along the B2095, north of Catsfield. The scheme would be delivered through the East Sussex Highways contract. | Circa £50,000 | £25,000 | £25,000 |

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). There is an increase in costs that comes with delivering these types of schemes due to the additional resources 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 provides the opportunity for Town or Parish councils, local resident groups and organisations to secure match funding to enable local priority schemes to be delivered. These are schemes which otherwise would not materialise using County Council funding alone through the capital programme of local transport improvements.

3.2. Therefore, the Lead Member is recommended to allocate £15,000 and £25,000 of community match funding to the speed reduction schemes in Catsfield and Ewhurst respectively.

3.3. The Lead Member is recommended to 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 (including contingencies) per scheme once the design and construction costs are known.

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Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

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LOCAL MEMBERS

Catsfield: Councillor Kathryn Field

Ewhurst: Councillor Paul Redstone

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Catsfield Feasibility Study

Catsfield EqlA

Ewhurst Feasibility Study

Ewhurst EqlA