

Report to: Lead Member for Transport and Environment

Date of meeting: 16 February 2026

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Community Match Schemes

Purpose: To set out proposed expenditure for 2026/27 as contribution towards Community Match schemes.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Lead Member is recommended to:

- (1) agree that £60,000 of match funding is allocated towards the Ripe and Chalvington Community Match signing and lining scheme and traffic calming features for detailed design work and construction in 2026/27;**
 - (2) agree that £15,000 of match funding is allocated towards the Wivelsfield Community Match signing and lining 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 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 the County Council 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 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 local funding, or there is not 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 or Town 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

2.1. Although 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. This will be the last round of applications to be considered by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment.

2.2. Two schemes have been received requesting funding to take a scheme 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.

Scheme	Total cost	Community contribution	ESCC Community Match Fund contribution
Ripe and Chalvington Parish Council – Introduction of additional signing and lining/markings and traffic calming features. The scheme would be delivered through the East Sussex Highways contract.	Circa £120,000	£60,000	£60,000
Wivelsfield Parish Council – Introduction of additional signing and lining/markings on South Road, Wivelsfield. The scheme would be delivered through the East Sussex Highways contract.	Circa £30,000	£15,000	£15,000

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), 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 objectors, objections must be considered by Planning Committee. This process adds both time and cost to the scheme.

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1. The Community Match programme provided 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.

3.2. Therefore, the Lead Member is recommended to allocate £60,000 of Community Match funding to signing and lining scheme and traffic calming features in Ripe and Chalvington and

£15,000 of Community Match funding for the introduction of additional signing and lining in Wivelsfield.

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Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

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LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Nick Bennett

Councillor Matthew Milligan

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Ripe and Chalvington Feasibility Study

Ripe and Chalvington Equality Impact Assessment

Wivelsfield Feasibility Study

Wivelsfield Equality Impact Assessment