

Report to: Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
Date of meeting: 14 March 2016
By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport
Title: Allocation of the 2016/17 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 £26,750 of match funding should be allocated towards four specific community led transport improvement schemes for construction in 2016/17;**
 - (2) Agree that development work on two further community match schemes should commence for possible match funding later in 2016/17;**
 - (3) Agree that development work on the Sedlescombe footpath scheme should continue for possible match funding later in 2016/17; and**
 - (4) Agree that the remaining unallocated £122,857 from the match funding available in 2016/17 should be held for potential allocation to schemes in the next round of funding in autumn 2016**
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1 Background Information

1.1 The Community Match Initiative provides local communities with a way to part fund and take forward small scale transport improvements that are locally important, but which are not of sufficient priority to be taken forward solely using County Council resources. Following an application process, the County Council will contribute up to 50% of the design and construction costs for those schemes that are selected to be taken forward.

1.2 The Community Match initiative is proving to be both popular and successful, however it requires significant staff resources to both manage the schemes and provide the necessary support to the parish and town councils to ensure their expectations are met.

2 Supporting Information

2.1 Details of all the current Community Match schemes are shown in the table in Appendix 1. Eleven new applications were received within this funding round. One of the schemes approved for design work in a previous funding round (Withyham to Blackham Ashurst footway along A264) is now ready to be considered for the match funding to enable it to be constructed. One new application (Vehicle Activated Sign at Danehill) has been rejected as it does not meet the road safety requirements. The remaining new applications were assessed against the agreed criteria that are used to establish which schemes should be a priority for possible funding through the initiative. The results of the assessment are shown in Appendix 1 within the column entitled "Overall VfM scoring".

2.2 With the new Costain CH2M Highways Contract commencing in May 2016, the way in which the Community Match initiative is managed is being reviewed to take account of the new Client/Contractor responsibilities. Although this work is underway, the details of how the initiative will operate in future need to be finalised. With this in mind it, would be prudent to consider the remaining applications within the next funding round in autumn 2016, when the details of how the scheme will operate under the new Client/Contractor arrangements have been finalised

2.3 The schemes and issues surrounding Community Match were considered by a Cross Party Member Panel, consisting of Councillors Maynard, Taylor, Webb, O'Keeffe, Rodohan and Pursglove on 2 February 2016. Members of the panel agreed that a recommendation should be made to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment that the scheme in Withyham, on which design work has been carried out, should now be approved for construction. Members also recommended the three new applications which scored highest in the priority assessment (Maresfield - Nether Lane, Nutley, 30mph

zone from the A22 to Down Street; Church Lane, Danehill - Double Yellow Lines; and Rushlake Crescent, Eastbourne - dropped kerb facility) should be approved for design and implementation as they are relatively straight-forward low cost projects.

2.4 Members of the panel also agreed that a recommendation should be made to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment that development work should commence on two further new Community Match schemes (Zebra Crossing outside St Andrews School in Eastbourne and Puffin Crossing on Brighton Road in Lewes). However a decision would have to be taken at a future meeting of the member panel in September 2016 about whether to recommend to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment that the match funding required to enable both of these schemes to be constructed should be allocated. Members also recommended that the remaining five applications unable to be taken forward at this time are held on file and re-considered within the next funding round. These five applications are shown in light grey in the table in Appendix 1.

2.5 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 previously approved scheme in Sedlescombe should continue. However, a decision would have to be taken at a future meeting of the member panel in September 2016 about whether to recommend to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment that the match funding required to enable it to be constructed should be allocated in 2016/17.

2.6 A sum of £100,000 has been allocated from the County Council's 2016/17 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 2015/16 has also been rolled forward into 2016/17, giving a total of £149,607 available to take forward schemes in this financial year.

2.7 Members of the panel also agreed to recommend to the Lead Member that should an amount totalling £26,750 be allocated towards specific schemes within this funding round, then the balance of £122,857 match funding available in 2016/17 should be held for allocation to Community Match Schemes in the next funding round in September 2016.

3 Conclusion and Reasons 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 £26,750 of match funding to the following four community led local transport improvements:

(i) Withyham - Blackham Ashurst footway along A264	£21,250
(ii) Maresfield - Nether Lane, Nutley, 30mph zone from the A22 to Down Street	£1,000
(iii) Church Lane, Danehill - Double Yellow Lines	£2,000
(iv) Rushlake Crescent, Eastbourne - dropped kerb facility	£2,500

3.2 It is also recommended that the Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment should agree that development work should commence on a number of other new Community Match schemes but that a decision about whether to recommend to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment that match funding should be allocated to allow them to be implemented in 2016/17 should be taken at a future Cross Party Member Panel meeting in September 2016. These schemes are as follows:

- (i) Eastbourne - New Zebra Crossing outside St Andrews School
- (ii) Brighton Road, Lewes - Puffin Crossing

3.3 It is also recommended that the Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment should agree that development work on the Sedlescombe footway scheme, which was approved in September 2014, should continue, but that a decision about whether to recommend to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment that match funding should be allocated to allow it to be implemented in 2016/17 should be taken at a future Cross Party Member Panel meeting in September 2016.

3.4 It is further recommended that the £122,857 which would remain unallocated from the £149,607 of match funding available in 2016/17 should be held for potential allocation to Community Match Schemes in the next funding round in autumn 2016.

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LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillors Galley, O'Keeffe, Belsey, Taylor and Whetstone

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None