

LOCAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

To: **Highways and Community Infrastructure**

Meeting Date: **10th February 2015**

From: **Executive Director Economy, Transport and Environment**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Forward Plan ref: **N/a** *Key decision:* **No**

Purpose: **To consider establishing a working group to review the Local Highway Improvement Scheme**

Recommendation: **The Committee is recommended to:**

- a) agree to establishing a working group with terms of reference as set out in Appendix 1**
- b) agree which members should be on the working group.**

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Local Highway Improvement Scheme (LHIS) was introduced in 2012/13. The scheme provides a mechanism for local communities to partner with the County Council to deliver their priorities for minor improvements to their roads and paths. The scheme has attracted approximately 450 applications since its inception and by the end of the current financial year, over 200 schemes will have been implemented. The scheme has been significantly over-subscribed and most of the projects would not have been delivered without the LHIS.
- 1.2 In 2012/13, £350,000 of highways capital funds were allocated to the programme. This was increased to £550,000 for 2013/14 and 2014/15. Funding from communities has bolstered the level of funding available.
- 1.3 An invitation for proposals from communities is sent out annually. Schemes have to be prepared by the promoter, although wherever possible, officers work with communities to help ensure that schemes that come forward are suitable for implementation. Liaison also takes place with the police to ensure schemes do not have any detrimental impacts in terms of road safety or enforcement. Funding is allocated from the highways budget and allocated on a district by district basis, based on population size. In Cambridge City, proposals are prioritised by the Cambridge Joint Area Committee. In the other districts, County Council member panels have prioritised schemes.

2. PROPOSAL

- 2.1 Whilst the scheme has been popular and successful in delivering its aims of empowering communities to help deliver local improvements, it is timely to review the scheme to determine how it goes forward.
- 2.2 It is suggested that a working group of the Committee be established to review the LHIS. The proposed terms of reference for the working group are set out in **Appendix 1**.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

- Minor highways improvements can increase accessibility, helping people gain access to skills and jobs.

3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

- Minor highways improvements can increase mobility and improve road safety, making it easier for people to access services.

3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

The scheme is based on partnership funding between the Council and the local community. Implications for this category are dependent on the outcome of the review.

4.2 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications

There are no significant implications for this category.

4.3 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.4 Engagement and Consultation Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.5 Localism and Local Member Involvement

The scheme involves significant local community and local member input. Implications for this category are dependent on the outcome of the review.

4.6 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

Source Documents	Location
Proposed Terms of Reference	Appendix 1

Local Highway Improvement Scheme: Member Working Group

Proposed Terms of Reference

Purpose:

To review the current Local Highways Improvement Scheme (LHIS) to ensure that the scheme best meets community needs, given the overall limitations on highway budgets.

Considerations:

The working group to consider:

- Overall funding availability
- Financial contributions from communities
- Consultation process
- Local member input
- Governance and decision-making arrangements

Membership and Chairing:

To be confirmed

Timescales:

To report findings to the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee by June 2015.

Officer Support:

The group will be supported by the Service Manager, Local Projects