



**FOR PUBLICATION**

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**10 July 2023**

**Report of the Executive Director - Place**

**Acceptance of Additional Department for Transport Maintenance and Pothole Repair Funding Grant 2023-24 and Defra Air Quality Grant 2023**  
(Cabinet Member for Highways, Assets and Transport)

**1. Divisions Affected**

1.1 County-wide.

**2. Key Decision**

2.1 These are key decisions because they are each likely to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or savings which are significant having regard to the budget for the service or function concerned (this is currently defined as £500,000) and/or are likely to be significant in terms of their effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral areas in the County.

**3. Purpose**

3.1 To seek Cabinet approval to: (a) accept an award to the Council from the Department for Transport (DfT) of additional Highways Maintenance and Pothole Repair funding for 2023-24; (b) to accept the award from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) in respect of the Air Quality Grant 2023; (c) to seek authorisation to delegate any decisions in relation to these projects to the Director for Highways, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways Assets and Transport; and (d) to seek authorisation to delegate to the

Authority's Section 151 Officer that the relevant grant conditions are accepted and discharged appropriately when provided.

#### **4. Information and Analysis**

##### **DfT Additional Highways Maintenance and Pothole Repair Funding 2023-24**

- 4.1 On 15 March 2023, the DfT announced an additional £200m nationally to spend on local roads in addition to the previously announced local highways maintenance funding of £2.7b between 2022 and 2025.
- 4.2 As part of this, Derbyshire has been awarded at least an additional £4.2m for 2023-24 (with the final amount to be confirmed as soon as grant conditions are received). The DfT has stated that it is up to each Highway Authority how to spend this funding in order to fulfil their statutory duty under Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980, based on local knowledge, circumstances and priorities.
- 4.3 Work is currently underway identifying locations where this funding can be targeted to improve the condition of the network for highway users. Delivery of the works will be on a mixed economy basis, similarly to the Highways Capital Scheme Programme works.

##### **Defra Air Quality Grant 2023**

- 4.4 On 8 February 2023, the Council was notified of its successful bid against Defra's annual Air Quality Grant to improve air quality in the County by using and augmenting and developing its existing Pre-emptive Traffic Management System that will ultimately allow strategic traffic management decisions to be made based on near real time emissions and predicted future emissions.
- 4.5 The total amount of grant was for £0.278m and is split as follows:
  - Revenue Funding - £64,502
  - Capital Funding - £213,000.
- 4.6 This will lead to improved air quality assessments relating to vehicular emissions allowing us to report on poor air quality and advising re-routing of traffic by suggesting the use of alternative routes. It will also provide more reliable bus services as the proposal will improve the efficiency of the network, co-ordinating with the Traffic Management System and Traffic Light Priority System for buses.

- 4.7 The potential to reduce congestion and the subsequent improvements in air quality will also benefit and encourage more active forms of travel, potentially making the use of walking and cycling more attractive, leading to additional health benefits over and above the reduction in emissions.

## **5. Consultation**

- 5.1 Not required.

## **6. Alternative Options Considered**

- 6.1 Do Nothing - By doing nothing and not accepting these grants would prevent the progression and delivery of both projects.

## **7. Implications**

- 7.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

## **8. Background Papers**

- 8.1 Air Quality Bid documents.

## **9. Appendices**

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Implications.

## **10. Recommendations**

That Cabinet:

- a) Approves acceptance of the award to the Council by the Department for Transport of the additional Highways Maintenance and Pothole Repair funding for 2023-24 (as set out in paragraph 4.2).
- b) Approves acceptance of the award to the Council by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) in respect of the air quality.
- c) Delegates any decisions in relation to these projects to the Director for Highways, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways Assets and Transport.
- d) Delegates to the Authority's Section 151 Officer that the relevant grant conditions are accepted and discharged appropriately when provided.

## **11. Reasons for Recommendations**

- 11.1 To enable the delivery of the Highway Maintenance and Pothole Repair Programme and the Air Quality Improvement Project referred to in this report, in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations.

## **12. Is it necessary to waive the call in period?**

- 12.1 No.

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**Implications**

**Financial**

- 1.1 DfT has awarded additional Highways Maintenance and Pothole Repair funding for 2023-24 in the region of £4.2m.
- 1.2 Defra has awarded an Air Quality Improvement grant following a successful bid process submission to Defra by the Council. The total grant is £0.28m.

**Legal**

- 2.1 The Council, as Highway Authority, has a duty to maintain the Highway in a safe condition under Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980. The award of the additional Highways Maintenance and Pothole Repair funding will assist the Council in fulfilling that duty.

**Human Resources**

- 3.1 Services will continue to be delivered using a mixed economy model of in-house services with support from external providers and suppliers.

**Information Technology**

- 4.1 Information Technology will be procured using approved procedures.

**Equalities Impact**

- 5.1 Not applicable.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 6.1 The delivery of Highway Improvements to provide well managed roads and the priority to reduce greenhouse emissions as part of the Climate Change Strategy are specific headline initiatives within the Council Plan 2021-2025.

**Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)**

**Health and Safety**

- 7.1 The delivery of the Air Quality Project will give health benefits to adjacent communities by the improvement in air quality.

## **Risk Management**

- 7.2 Regular board meetings will monitor the progress, delivery and costs to enable early warnings to be given of possible issues and to enable effective mitigation measures.