



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

11 January 2024

Report of the Executive Director - Place

**Acceptance of Department for Transport Local Highways Maintenance
Additional Funding 2023-24**

(Cabinet Member for Highways, Assets and Transport)

1. Divisions Affected

1.1 County-wide.

2. Key Decision

2.1 This is a key decision because it is 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 it is likely to be significant in terms of its 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 Local Highways Maintenance additional funding for 2023-24 of £3.014m;
- (b) to seek authorisation to delegate any decisions in relation to the spending of this funding to the Director for Highways in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways, Assets and Transport; and

(c) to seek authorisation to delegate approval and discharge of the relevant grant conditions to the Authority's Section 151 Officer.

4. Information and Analysis

Department for Transport Local Highways Maintenance Additional Funding 2023-24

- 4.1 On 4 October 2023, the Government announced £8.3 billion of additional highways maintenance funding over the period 2023 to 2024 and the next 10 years for local road resurfacing and wider maintenance activity on the local highway network. This consists of:
- £3.3 billion for local authorities (LAs) in the North West, North East, and Yorkshire and the Humber
 - £2.2 billion for LAs in the West Midlands and East Midlands
 - £2.8 billion for LAs in the East of England, South East, South West and London
- 4.2 This funding is in addition to local transport funding from the last Spending Review and in addition to what LAs were expecting in future. Allocated across the next 11 years, it will represent an increase of around two-thirds in Department for Transport (DfT) support for local roads. Fifteen per cent of the funds will be allocated at a later date with the details to be confirmed in due course.
- 4.3 For this financial year, Derbyshire County Council will receive an additional £3.014m of funding from the Road Resurfacing Fund for local highways maintenance, particularly for the resurfacing of carriageways, cycleways, and footways to prevent potholes and other road defects from occurring, as well as tackling other asset management priorities, such as keeping local bridges and other highway structures open and safe.
- 4.4 The additional funding for 2023-24 is being issued under the same grant conditions as the capital block funding under Specific Grant Determination (2023/24): No.31/6680. It has been provided as capital grant and is not formally ring-fenced. Therefore, only the allocations listed have changed.
- 4.5 The Government expects the entirety of the funding unlocked from the Network North plan to be truly additional. Whilst the Department recognises that capital grant funding is nominally unringfenced and flexible to enable local authorities to spend when and where it is needed, it is also expected that local authorities will not reallocate

existing highways maintenance budgets in light of this new funding. This is to help ensure that this Network North funding uplift is truly transformational for local communities and road users up and down the country.

- 4.6 If the Department considers that this funding was not invested in additional highways maintenance activity, and that it did not lead to an overall increase in either the Authority's highway maintenance expenditure or planned expenditure, it reserves the right to reduce or amend future planned grants to the local authority – for highways maintenance and/or other funding streams.
- 4.7 Work has therefore been undertaken identifying locations where this funding can be targeted to improve the condition of the network for highway users and be delivered as quickly as possible. Delivery of the works will be on a mixed economy basis, similar to the Highways Capital Scheme Programme works, using in-house resources supported by external consultants and contractors in order to deliver the projects within the required timescales as quickly as possible.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Not required.

6. Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 Do Nothing - By doing nothing and not accepting this grant, the road network will deteriorate further and require additional revenue funding to be identified to maintain the Council's statutory duties to maintain Derbyshire roads.

7. Implications

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

8. Background Papers

- 8.1 [Local highways maintenance: additional funding from 2023 to 2034 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/114444/Local_highways_maintenance_additional_funding_from_2023_to_2034_-_GOV.UK_(www.gov.uk).pdf)

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 local highways maintenance; additional funding 2023-24 of £3.014m (as set out in Paragraph 4.3).
- b) Delegates any decisions in relation to the spending of this funding to the Director for Highways, in consultation with the Cabinet Member Highways, Assets and Transport.
- c) Delegates approval and discharge of the relevant grant conditions to the Authority's Section 151 Office.

11. Reason for Recommendations

11.1 To enable the delivery of the Local Highway Maintenance additional funding, in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations.

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

12.1 No.

Report Author: Tom Blackburne-Maze

Contact details: Tom.Blackburne-Maze@derbyshire.gov.uk

Implications

Financial

- 1.1 The Department for Transport (DfT) has awarded Derbyshire County Council local highways maintenance additional capital funding for 2023-24 of £3.014m.
- 1.2 Spend of this grant will be reported through the Place Departments Highways Capital Board.

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 local highways maintenance: additional 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 Existing Information Technology will be utilised.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 Not applicable.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 6.1 The Council's Highway Infrastructure Maintenance Policy highlights the following objective:
The prevention of the deterioration of the highway infrastructure network within the constraints of the available funding. The delivery of Highway Improvements to provide well managed roads is a specific headline objective within the Council Plan 2021-2025.

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

Risk Management

- 7.1 The Council's Highway Infrastructure Maintenance Policy Statement highlights the following objective: The prevention of the deterioration of the highway infrastructure network within the constraints of the available funding. The delivery of Highway Improvements to provide well managed roads is a specific headline objective within the Council Plan 2021-2025. Capital programme board will monitor the progress, delivery and costs and enable any early warnings to be given of any possible risks and issues to enable effective mitigation measures to be actioned.