

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21ST FEBRUARY 2020

HIGHWAY FOOTWAY AND ROAD SAFETY INVESTMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

Purpose:

To provide an update on the current investment programme in relation to road safety and associated infrastructure.

To consider and comment on the following issues:

That the Committee considers and comments on the current investment programme in relation to road safety and associated infrastructure.

Reasons:

For the Committee's information.

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Councillor H.A.L Evans - Environment

Directorate Name of Head of Service: S. Pilliner	Designations: Head of Transport & Engineering	Tel Nos. 01267 228150 01267 228136
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21st FEBRUARY 2020

HIGHWAY FOOTWAY AND ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY INVESTMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

1.0 Introduction and Background.

1.1 The County Council employs many measures to prevent road traffic casualties including education, publicity campaigns, training, traffic management and other road safety initiatives as well as the construction of a number of road safety improvement schemes each year. The overall strategy is outlined in the Carmarthenshire County Council Local Transport Plan which is contained within the Joint Local Transport Plan for South West Wales.

1.2 These measures are funded from a variety of sources including both capital and revenue grants and other funds which are summarised as follows with further details provided in the Summary Table at the end of the report.

2.0 Local Transport Plan / Local Transport Fund

2.1 The South West Wales Integrated Transport Consortium (SWWITCH) was formally dissolved in early 2014 and Welsh Government required local authorities to prepare a Local Transport Plan. The four West Wales local authorities agreed to continue a collaborative approach which is linked to the Swansea Bay City Region and the emerging City Deal. The priorities within the Carmarthenshire County Council Local Transport Plan (LTP) were approved in 2015.

2.2 Funding which was previously allocated to the Regional Consortium is now allocated to the individual local authorities on a competitive basis and bids for the Local Transport Fund (LTF) are submitted to Welsh Government on an annual basis. This LTF Grant is subject to an ever increasing level of scrutiny as the all Wales funding is limited. Carmarthenshire County Council secured LTF funding of £2,070,000 in the current financial year towards 3 schemes.

3.0 Local Transport Network Fund

3.1 Local Authorities prepared and submitted Local Transport Plans (LTPs) to the Welsh Government; the four authorities in South West Wales worked collaboratively to create an overarching City Region LTP (with four local programmes of projects and the joint LTP providing the framework for improving connectivity to, from and within the region) for the period 2015 to 2020 - funding is now allocated to the individual local authorities on a competitive basis [bids for the Local Transport Network Fund (LTNF) to be submitted to Welsh Government annually].

3.2 LTNF Grant provides a funding opportunity for the Authority to deliver projects / implement measures so as to improve public transport journey time reliability, to reduce public transport journey times and to connect communities and enable access to employment, education and key services.

In the current financial year, LTNF funding of £450,000 was awarded for Carmarthenshire Strategic Public Transport Corridors.

4.0 Active Travel Act and Local Authority Obligations

4.1 The Active Travel (Wales) Act makes provision for a number of items including the development of approved maps of existing active travel routes, the promotion of active travel journeys and to enhance the provision made for walkers and cyclists among others.

4.2 A number of key obligations have been passed to Local Authorities to implement, including the mapping of routes, the need to have regard for the active travel route network in the development of transport policies, the promotion of active travel journeys and to enhance the provision made for walkers and cyclists.

4.3 One of the obligations involved Welsh Government requiring all Local Authorities to submit details of all walking and cycling routes for inclusion in all Wales database of such routes (known as Existing Route Map). These details included an audit of all routes and Carmarthenshire County Council were one of only five Local Authorities that secured Welsh Government approval without the need for further work. The Authority was also required to submit an Integrated Network Map (INM) during 2017 which has subsequently been formally approved by Welsh Government.

4.4 Welsh Government have recently advised that future funding for Active Travel related projects will be based on these INMs.

In the current financial year 2019-20 a total of £316,000 has been awarded for the development of routes identified on the INM for works such as feasibility studies, scheme design, land purchase and consultation/engagement.

In addition to this funding we have secured £1,641,000 for capital works constructing schemes identified on the INM. These include upgrade of the active travel network in South Llanelli and the construction of shared use link toward Hendy.

Year 2020/21: Welsh Government Transport Grants & Active Travel Fund Grant

Welsh Government Transport Grants and Active Travel Fund Grant funding is allocated to individual local authorities across Wales on a competitive basis; to support / enable schemes and proposals to develop integrated, effective, accessible, affordable, safe and sustainable transport systems, modes and networks.

A number of bids are currently being drafted for submission to Welsh Government by 14th February 2020 - to include such proposals as:

- Cross Hands Economic Link Road
- Llanelli Urban and Coastal Belt Network Improvements
- Towy Valley Path
- Access to Pembrey Country Park
- Ammanford Distributor Road
- Strategic Public Transport Corridors // Modernising Services - Public Transport
- Active Travel (3no. geographical schemes)
- Electric Vehicles Charging Hub (Cross Hands)
- Package of extreme weather resilience measures (mix of infrastructure and monitoring equipment)

5.0 Safe Routes in Communities

5.1 The Safe Routes in Communities (SRiC) grant provides direct funding from the Welsh Government for the County Council to deliver projects that create or enhance active travel within communities with the aim of improving accessibility and safety. This will help create greater social inclusion and improved community safety. Safe Routes in the Communities funds capital works such as: -

- crossings
- traffic calming measures
- shared use paths
- footpaths
- secure cycle facilities (including stands), lockers and changing facilities.

5.2 The County Council must bid for this funding on an annual basis. The Welsh Government has advised that schemes must link directly with the Integrated Network map or have been included in a schedule of works to upgrade safe walking routes to schools included in a response to the Minister in the summer of 2014. Carmarthenshire County Council has been highly successful in securing this SRiC funding being consistently among the highest awards for this particular grant.

Two projects are included in the current financial year for works in the Llanelli West and Ammanford/Betws areas; a total of £849,744 funding secured for these areas.

Bids listed below for next year's SRIC funding have been submitted to Welsh Government on 24th January 2020:

- Llwynhendy - £823,080
- Ammanford & Betws Phase 2 - £423,500

6.0 Road Safety Improvement and Footway Improvement Programme

6.1 At its meeting on the 14th November 2011 the Executive Board approved the criteria for assessment, selection and prioritisation of Road Safety Improvement and Footway Improvements to be funded from the Council's capital budget allocation for such works. A new 3 year rolling programme was developed and implemented from 2013-14. The criteria for assessment was updated in the spring of 2017 and formally approved by Executive Board on 27th February 2017.

6.2 During the summer of 2017 the prioritised programme was reassessed in accordance with the criteria to determine the 3 year rolling programme (commencing in 2018-19); the schemes will be subject to further feasibility works in future years, subject to the availability of funding.

6.3 Previously committed schemes continue to be developed and implemented as funding and any other constraints permit.

7.0 Local Road Safety Grant (Capital & Revenue)

7.1 The Road Safety Grant was introduced in 2000. The Capital Grant provides direct funding from the Welsh Government for the County Council to provide engineering solutions to road safety problems on the county road network. The Revenue Grant is used to provide a programme of road safety related education and training initiatives.

7.2 The County Council must bid to the Welsh Government for both capital and revenue funding on an annual basis. The revenue allocation is set for each LA by use of a formula based on the latest available population numbers (60%) and casualty numbers of those killed or seriously injured (40%).

7.3 The County Council prioritises the selection of road safety engineering projects for its capital bids on the basis of historic collision and casualty statistics along rural routes and at urban cluster sites. The Council assesses the collision and casualty reduction performance of each scheme delivered using the grant. There is a strong partnering approach to all initiatives funded from this grant through groups such as the Carmarthenshire Speed Limit Working Group with bodies such as Dyfed Powys Police and GoSafe.

7.4 For its revenue bids priority is given to high risk groups of young people and motorcyclists and also to child pedestrian and cycling training. The programmes are designed to improve people's awareness, knowledge, skills, and behaviour and develop safer attitudes towards using the highway.

7.5 Bids listed below for next year's Road Safety Grant funding have been submitted to Welsh Government on 24th January 2020:

Capital

Llanelli South Area
A476 Llanelli - Ffairfach

Revenue

Mature Driver Programme

Biker Down Cymru

Dragon Rider Cymru

Pass Plus Cymru

Kerbcraft

National Cycling Training

Mega Drive

Active Travel & Road Safety Training

8.0 Traffic Management and Accident Prevention Programme

8.1 The following traffic and accident prevention elements are provided on the county road network using the Councils revenue budget allocation for such works: -

- Traffic orders for speed limits, one way working, weight restrictions, width restrictions, buses only, no entry order, no motor vehicles order, disabled persons parking bays, waiting restrictions, residents parking zones;
- Traffic calming elements, road humps, narrowing's and chicanes, gateway and entry treatments, vehicle activated message signs, speed limit roundel markings, coloured surfaces, surface texture – skid resistant material;
- Hatched road markings, countdown signs, bollards, disabled parking bays.

8.2 The current programme of traffic management and accident prevention projects being delivered using the revenue funding is shown in the Summary Table at the end of the report.

9.0 Recommendations.

Members are asked to note the report.

SUMMARY OF FUNDING FOR ROAD SAFETY RELATED AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEMES FOR 2019 - 2020

PROJECT	COMMENTS	2019/2020 BUDGET
Road Safety Improvement Programme - (previously committed proposals)		£289,330
C2134 Tycroes	Delivery of Phase 1	
Prioritised Programme for Highway Infrastructure and Road Safety Improvements -		
Allt y Cnap Road / Llanstephan Road, Johnstown, Carmarthen (B4312 / C2078)	Ongoing	
Ponthenri (B4317 / C2077)	Ongoing feasibility	
Llanybydder Square to Pencarreg (A485)	Ongoing feasibility	
A484 between Idole and Cwmffrwd (A484)	Ongoing feasibility	
Nantgaredig to Abergorlech (B4310)	Ongoing feasibility	
Oaklands Junction, Cwmffrwd (A484 / B4309)	Complete	
Nantycaws (C2071)	Investigation and feasibility complete	
Carway / Pontyates	Investigation and feasibility complete	
Kidwelly (Carmarthen Road) (A484)	Investigation and feasibility complete	
Carmarthen Road, Cwmann (A485)	Location included in WG Active Travel Fund (in year award - 19/20)	
Safe Routes in Communities -		<i>External Grant allocation:</i>
Ammanford & Betws	Funded by WG Grant	£440,171.50
Llanelli West	Funded by WG Grant	£409,572.34
Active Travel Projects -		<i>External Grant allocation</i>
Active Travel Fund (Core Allocation)	Feasibility designs / minor works only	£316,000
Active Travel Fund (In year award)	Comprised of: Additional monies for cycle shelters/barrier removal - £40,000 Llanelli Masterplan - £1,051,000 Cross Hands to Ammanford - £400,000 Cwmann - £150,000	1,641,000

PROJECT	COMMENTS	2019/2020 BUDGET
Local Transport Fund Projects -		<i>External Grant allocation:</i>
Cross Hands Economic Link Road	Construction of the Cross Hands Economic Link Road	£1,300,000
Llanelli Urban and Coastal Belt Network Improvements	Surveys, design and land purchase for highways improvements in Llanelli	£550,000
Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	Deliver Phase 1 of electric vehicle charging infrastructure	£220,000
Local Transport Network Fund -		<i>External Grant allocation:</i>
Strategic Public Transport Corridors	Measures to improve journey time reliability, accessibility, safety and attractiveness of public transport	£450,000
Road Safety Schemes (funded by WG Road Safety Grant - CAPITAL)		<i>External Grant allocation:</i>
A485 / A4243 Carmarthen to Cwmann Route	Measures to reduce personal injury collisions and casualties.	£250,200
Burry Port / Pembrey area	Measures to reduce personal injury collisions and casualties. Measures to encourage Active Travel in the local community and to local schools.	£247,500
Road Safety Education & Training (funded by WG Road Safety Grant – REVENUE)		<i>External Grant allocation:</i>
Biker Down	A training process that has been tailored for motorcyclists who wish to enhance their knowledge and broaden their experience in dealing with road related incidents or collisions that may require basic First Aid intervention at the roadside	£3,300
Dragon Rider	The training package encourages post-test motorbike riders to improve their riding skills and follows the syllabus as laid down by the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency Enhanced Rider Scheme.	£6,750
Kerbcraft	The scheme is designed to teach children to be safe pedestrians by giving them practical roadside training and showing them how to make the right decisions to keep safe when crossing the road.	£54,970
National Standards Cycle Training	The scheme is aimed at pupils in their last year at Primary school i.e. year 6 pupils, which in turn will encourage active travel to their chosen secondary school	£37,400
Older Drivers	A driver education and coaching programme, tailored to meet the older driver's specific needs.	£12,000
Rural Roads	Engagement events in targeted rural areas where there is a history of local resident casualty issues.	£6,500
Pass Plus	An established initiative aimed at new drivers between the ages of 17 and 25 who have less than one year driving experience	£8,280

PROJECT	COMMENTS	2019/2020 BUDGET
Traffic Management Schemes - Miscellaneous		£242,000
Minor TM schemes (Various locations)	Road signs and markings	
Meidrim (Phase 2)	20 mph speed limit	
Cenarth	Speed limit extension	
Penlon Road, Newcastle Emlyn	Speed limit	
Wernddu Road, Ammanford.	Speed limit extension.	
Pantyrathro, Llanstephan.	Speed limit.	
Longacre Road, Carmarthen.	Speed limit.	
Llangadog.	Speed limit extension.	
A 476	No overtaking signs.	
Llanelli schools.	School keep clear markings order	
DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	NO	

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: **S G Pilliner** Head of **Highways & Transport**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	YES	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Road Safety is one of the Carmarthenshire Integrated Community Strategies. Road Safety strategies are also set out in the Carmarthenshire County Council Local Transport Plan which is contained within the Joint Transport Plan for South West Wales.

Delivery of sustainable transport projects is also one of the objectives of the Carmarthenshire County Council Local Transport Plan which is contained within the Joint Transport Plan for South West Wales.

2. Legal

The Council has a statutory responsibility to manage and maintain public roads. That duty includes the investigation of road traffic accidents, the provision of road safety measures and enabling the expeditious movement of traffic.

The Council has a statutory responsibility to promote walking and cycling and other sustainable modes of transport as outlined in the Active Travel (Wales) Act.

3. Finance

The budgets for the current financial year to deliver sustainable transport and road safety projects are set out in the report.

5. Risk Management Issues

Potential for challenge to the Council's management of sustainable transport and road safety project grant claims.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: S G Pilliner Head of Highways & Transport

1. Local Member(s) - N/A.
2. Community / Town Council - N/A.
3. Relevant Partners - N/A.
4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations - N/A.

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:
THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Joint Transport Plan for South West Wales		http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1085004/Joint-Transport-Plan-300115.pdf