

ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7TH MARCH 2022

PROVISION OF PAVEMENTS IN RURAL AREAS

Purpose:

This report has been written at the request of the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee following a referral from Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee regarding the lack of provision of pavements in rural areas and the backlog of requests.

To consider and comment on the following issues:

The methodology in place for assessing and prioritising available funding for requested highway improvements.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted:

Environment and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee 7th March 2022.

Cabinet Decision Required NO

Council Decision Required NO

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Councillor Hazel Evans

Directorate:

Name of Head of Service:

Steve Pilliner

Report Author:
Richard Waters

Designations:

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ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7TH MARCH 2022

PROVISION OF PAVEMENTS IN RURAL AREAS

The Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 1st July 2021 raised a concern regarding a lack of pavements in rural areas to facilitate increased levels of walking and cycling and made reference to the outstanding pool of requests for pavements. As this matter did not fall within the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee's remit and in accordance with [Scrutiny Procedure Rule 23](#) of the Councils Constitution, it was agreed to refer the matter to Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee.

Consequently, the Environmental and Public Protection Committee, at its meeting on 4th October 2021 accepted the referral and requested for a report to include background information and the current position of the provision of pavements in rural areas in Carmarthenshire, to be presented to the Committee for consideration. Appendix A provides [Minute 9 of the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny – 4th October 2022](#).

There has been a longstanding pressure on the County Council from the large number of requests received for highway improvements such as upgraded junctions, traffic calming, new sections of road and new footways. These requests far exceed the resources available through the Council's annual capital budget allocated for Highway Infrastructure and Road Safety Improvements. The level of capital funding available, it is £250k per annum. The level of funding enables delivery of a maximum of three schemes per year.

Where possible and a footway scheme meets specified criteria, the Council will bid for grant funding from the Wales Government. These schemes include Safe Routes to School and where the settlement size is sufficient, Active Travel.

To ensure that this budget is targeted towards the areas of greatest need a prioritisation model was approved by the Council's Executive Board in November, 2011 and amended by the Executive Board in February, 2017 - [Agenda for Cabinet on Monday, 27th February, 2017, 10.00 am](#).

The prioritisation model adopts a staged approach with assessment based on evidence of:

- recorded road traffic collisions which result in personal injuries,
- the severity of injuries,
- injuries to vulnerable road users (pedestrians and cyclists),
- numbers of road users (traffic, pedestrians and cyclists),

The highest-ranking candidate projects are then assessed to understand the expected benefits an investment would bring in terms of:

- level of improvement,
- deliverability of the project,
- value for money
- potential leverage of additional funding
- future maintenance impact.

The highest-ranking schemes are then incorporated into a rolling capital programme which has a current annual budget of £250,000. The Executive Board also agreed that 10% of the budget be allocated towards low cost / high value works would beneficially address sites which have a high road safety risk with measures such as traffic signs and road markings.

Projects which cannot be included within the programme are kept on record for future reference and can be brought forward should other delivery opportunities arise such as through new development, Safe Routes in Communities and Active Travel initiatives.

The bank of unfunded schemes is readily accessible in the 'Demand Library' on [GeoDiscoverer](#) and are reviewed and reassessed periodically. The current Demand Library has 424 candidates schemes which include 218 schemes with elements containing footway improvements.

REPORT ATTACHED?

NO:

Appendix A provides [Minute 9 of the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny – 4th October 2022.](#)

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 Transportation and Highways

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

Finance

This report sets out the prioritisation of the Road Safety and Highway Infrastructure Capital Programme as agreed by Executive Board in February 2017. The annual budget for scheme is £250,000 per annum.

Risk Management

The prioritisation model adopts a risk-based approach in targeting capital resources to areas of greatest need as evidence within an objective database of personal injury accidents recorded by the police.

Physical Assets

The assessment model adopted for prioritising and developing the capital programme includes consideration of the impact an investment has on future asset maintenance liabilities

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: S.G. Pilliner

Head of Transportation and Highways

1. Scrutiny Committee.

Report to be presented to Environment and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee on the 7th March 2022.

2. Local Member(s) N/A

3. Community / Town Council: N/A

4. Relevant Partners: N/A

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations: N/A

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO
HOLDER AWARE/CONSULTED**

YES

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None**

Title of Document	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Minute 9 - Referral From The Community And Regeneration Scrutiny Committee - Provision Of Pavements In Rural Areas	Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny – 4th October 2021.
Prioritisation Model for Highway Infrastructure and Road Safety Improvements	https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s11660/SUMMARY.pdf
Agenda for Cabinet on Monday, 27th February, 2017, 10.00 am	Agenda for Cabinet on Monday, 27th February, 2017, 10.00 am.

[Minute 9 of the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny – 4th October 2021.](#)

REFERRAL FROM THE COMMUNITY AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - PROVISION OF PAVEMENTS IN RURAL AREAS

The Committee received a report for consideration in relation to a referral from the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee in relation to the provision of pavements in rural areas.

Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Members noted during the consideration of the Council's Draft Annual Report for 2020/21, at its meeting on 1st July, 2021 made reference to the increase in walking and cycling during the pandemic and to the lack of pavements on public highways in many rural areas to facilitate safe walking, with there being over 300 applications for pavements currently outstanding. A view was expressed that the Authority should examine this position, possibly via a Task and Finish Group. As this matter did not fall within the Committees remit Members of the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny committee agreed to refer the matter to the Environment and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee.

In addition, the report also included information of a discussion that took place within the Policy and Resources Committee on 21st July 2021 which expressed concern over the backlog of requests for the provision of pavements in rural areas.

In acknowledgement that this matter did fall under the remit of this Committee it was raised that this matter was a significant concern which needed to be explored further.

It was therefore proposed that this Committee accept the referral and in order for the Committee to consider the matter appropriately, it was proposed that a report be included on the Committee's Forward Work Programme to provide background information and the current position in relation to the provision of pavements in rural areas. This was duly seconded

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:

- 9.1 the Referral from the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee be received and accepted;**
- 9.2 a report be included on the Committee's Forward Work Programme to provide background information and the current position in relation to the provision of pavements in rural areas.**