

Report for Resolution

Report to Norwich Highways Agency Committee
24 March 2011

Report of Head of city development services

Subject Confirmation of Highway Capital Improvement Programme
2011-12

Item

9

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to update members on the level of funding allocated to the capital improvement programme, and to ask members to confirm their priorities for 2011-12.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- (1) Approve the following funding allocations:
 - (a) Constitution Hill speed cushions on the approach to the zebra crossing - £20,000;
 - (b) Bus stop infrastructure - £25,000;
 - (c) Minor traffic management schemes - £10,000;
 - (d) NATS implementation plan measures:
 - (i) Standardising cycling and loading times in pedestrianised area - £30,000; and
 - (ii) Contra-flow cycle lanes in city centre - £20,000
- (2) Decide whether to allocate £100,000 to the Newmarket Road / Eaton Road signal improvement scheme
- (3) If the decision is not to proceed with the Newmarket Road / Eaton Road scheme then to approve the reallocation of that funding to:
 - (a) Annual waiting restrictions implementation - £25,000;
 - (b) CPZ extensions - £30,000; and
 - (c) Contra flow cycle lanes £45,000.

Financial Consequences

The amount of Local Transport Plan funding allocated to improvement works in the City for 2011/12 is £205,000. Details of how this can be allocated are contained within the body of the report.

Strategic Priority and Outcome/Service Priorities

The report helps to meet the strategic priority (Right click to select) and the service plan priority (Click here to type service plan priority)

Contact Officers

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Background Documents

NHAC Report and Minutes November 2010

Environment, Transport and Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel report and minutes January 2011

County Council Cabinet report and minutes January 2011

County Council Full Council report and minutes February 2011

Report

Background

1. At your meeting in November you agreed a report that set out this committee's aspirations for the 2011/12 capital improvement programme. At the time that report was considered the overall level of LTP funding was unclear and the schemes within that report were prioritised. That priority list is attached as appendix 1.
2. At its' meeting on the 14th February the county council's cabinet approved its' budget for the coming year. Within this there was an county wide allocation of £2 million for highway capital improvement projects. This represents a significant reduction on previous years allocations which have been in the region of £11m. The reason for the reduction are twofold; the integrated transport fund allocation from central government was reduced, and a decision was taken to allocate a larger proportion of that funding to capital maintenance schemes
3. The indicative programme for that £2m budget includes £205,000 to be spent on schemes within the city. This is broadly in line with previous years when around 10% of the overall budget for improvement schemes has been spent in Norwich.

Provisional programme

4. The table below sets out the provisional programme for the city

Scheme	Funding
Newmarket Road / Eaton Road improvements associated with the signal upgrade scheme	£100,000
Bus stop infrastructure improvements	£25,000
Constitution Hill speed cushions on the approach to the zebra crossing (stage 3 safety audit works)	£20,000
Minor traffic management schemes	£10,000
NATS Implementation Plan schemes	£50,000
Total	£205,000

5. The Newmarket Road / Eaton Road scheme is subject to a separate report on this agenda, and as well as determining the objections received to that scheme, Members need to decide whether to proceed with it, given that it takes almost 50% of the budget.
6. Both the bus stop and Constitution Hill schemes are ones that we are required to do. The former is so that we can comply with the disability discrimination act and the later to satisfy concerns of a stage 3 safety audit. The minor traffic

improvements, such as new signs, bollards, dropped kerbs etc.

7. The NATS implementation plan funds can be used to progress any scheme included in the NATS IP. It is suggested that this is allocated to the 2 unfunded priority one schemes from the original bid; £30,000 for standardising cycling and loading times in the city centre and £20,000 contra-flow cycle lanes, which is subject to a separate report on this agenda

Issues arising from the reduced budget.

8. There are 2 projects that the committee has agreed that are currently unfunded; the annual waiting restrictions programme and an extension to the eastern Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ).
9. The legal orders associated with the annual waiting restrictions that were agreed at your September meeting have been advertised and the public consultation has been completed. Ordinarily a report on that consultation would have been brought to your January meeting for the objections to be considered and the proposals to be implemented agreed. This was delayed, as by then doubts existed over the funding situation. The anticipated cost of implementing the waiting restrictions is £25,000
10. At your meeting in November you asked the head of transportation to advertise the legal orders associated with the extending the eastern CPZ into Thorpe Park and some minor amendments to waiting restrictions on the periphery of the CPZ. As yet this has not happened as it became apparent that funding may not be available to implement the scheme. £30,000 would be required to complete the consultation and implementation.

Revised programme

11. Should members decide not to progress the Newmarket Road / Eaton Road scheme it is suggested that £55,000 is allocated to the waiting restrictions and CPZ extension projects. The remaining £45,000 could be allocated to the contra flow cycle lanes in the city centre project giving that a total budget of £65,000.

Schemes in the city funded by other sources

12. As well as LTP funded schemes in the city, the following transport improvement schemes are planned for implementation in 2011/12
 - Dereham Road BRT – Improvements for buses £895K from Growth Point funding
 - Airport to City Centre walking and cycling improvements - £175k S106 funds
 - Links to Marriott's Way - £24k S106 funds
 - UEA CPZ implementation - £16k S106 funds