

<b>Item No.</b> 10.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 12 March 2024	<b>Decision Taker:</b> North East Multi-Ward Forum
<b>Report title:</b>		Devolved Highways 2024-25: Capital Funding Allocation (North East)	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		North Bermondsey, Rotherhithe, South Bermondsey & Surrey Docks.	
<b>From:</b>		Head of Highways	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That the North East Multi-Ward Forum approves the allocation of £152,380 for the 2024-25 Devolved Highways programme from the programmed capital expenditure over the ten year period 2019-20 to 2028-29 and to the list of projects set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 (“Funded Projects”) within the North East Multi-Ward Area.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The North East Multi-Ward Forum has the authority to approve the allocation of funds to devolved highway capital schemes within the North East Multi-Ward area using the resources and criteria identified by Cabinet pursuant to Part 3H of the council’s constitution.
3. The North East Multi-Ward area is made up of the North Bermondsey, Rotherhithe, South Bermondsey & Surrey Docks.
4. The council’s non-principal road investment programme prioritises works on non-principal roads on a borough-wide basis and this investment forms the largest part of the annual investment programme.
5. The Devolved Highways programme is allocated £800,000 each year from the total annual non-principal road investment programme to be spent by Multi-Ward areas on their priorities for highway renewal and maintenance that may not be prioritised as part of the borough-wide programme.
6. Funding is allocated to Multi-Ward areas based on the number of councillors.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [In accordance with the decision dated 7 January 2019 for the Allocation of funds to wards via Cleaner Greener Safer and Devolved Highways programmes](#)

7. The scope of the Devolved Highways programme permits a full range of minor traffic and highway capital schemes. Examples of the types of works which may be funded by the Devolved Highways programme include:
  - a. Footway and carriageway resurfacing.
  - b. Traffic calming.
  - c. Localised repairs.
  - d. Accessibility improvements.
  - e. Footway buildouts.
  - f. Cycle hangars.
  
8. Advertisement of the application process for project funding in the North East Multi-Ward area by the Devolved Highways programme was carried out in the local press, on social media, the council's website and mailing lists from multi ward area forums between 4<sup>th</sup> September and 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023.

### **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

9. There is £152,380 available for the 2024-25 Devolved Highways programme and for new projects in the North East Multi-Ward area.

### **Policy framework implications**

10. The Devolved Highways programme is fully aligned with the council's policies around sustainability, regeneration and community engagement as detailed in "Fairer Greener Safer – Southwark Council Delivery Plan 2022-2026" because the Funded Projects support active modes of transport and will provide improvements to road safety so all road users are prioritised. The programme also enables community engagement as part of the application process including pitching meetings where applicants are able to advise why their proposal should be considered.
  
11. The council's Streets for People strategy outlines the council's ongoing commitment to, and ambition for, healthier neighbourhoods, cleaner air, thriving town centres and safer roads as part of the "Our Pledges" listed on page 7 of the strategy. The Funded Projects include the introduction of cycle parking, traffic calming, and footway and junction improvements at the relevant areas which will create a more pleasant environment for pedestrians and cyclists by reducing motor vehicle dominance, and will create a safer road network for all road users.

### **Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts**

#### **Community impact statement**

12. As part of the application process the local community is able to propose ideas for projects to be funded by the Devolved Highways Programme. This has a positive impact in terms of the promotion of involvement of

local people in the democratic process. Officers will also carry out the relevant consultation procedures for the Funded Projects as set out in paragraph 29 of this report.

### **Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement**

13. The Public Sector Equality Duty (“PSED”) is set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and requires the Council, in the exercise of its functions, to have due regard to the need to:
  - eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
  - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it;
  - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it.
14. Ideas for the Funded Projects came from the local community, the majority via a simple project nomination form which was available in electronic and paper format. The advertising of the project funding application process was through a variety of modes to reach a wide audience and different groups within the area, such as in local press, on social media, the council’s website and mailing lists from Multi Ward area forums.
15. At this stage, the allocation of funds for the Devolved Highways programme is not considered to have any adverse effects, including socio-economic or health impacts, on those with protected characteristics. Officers will consider the equalities impacts and the council’s PSED for each of the Funded Projects as they progress through the detailed design and decision-making stages.

### **Health impact statement**

16. There are no direct health implications as a result of the allocation of funds for the Devolved Highways programme. However, the Funded Projects will have the following benefits.
17. An increase in community assets in the public realm – providing more places for people to spend time in their local community. This has the potential to have a positive impact on social and mental wellbeing, by creating connected and cohesive communities.
18. Increased ownership over community public realm – this helps people within the community join together around a project, supporting connected and cohesive communities.
19. Project examples such as tree planting, street lighting, landscaping traffic calming, junction improvements, pedestrian crossings, cycle

parking and cycling infrastructure may have the following impacts:

- a. improve mental wellbeing by increasing access to the outdoors and nature, improve mental and physical wellbeing by improving street space and encouraging active travel;
- b. improved access to affordable and secure cycle parking which should contribute to less congestion and air pollution locally;
- c. tree planting and green spaces may help to reduce or disperse air pollution, supporting people's physical health; and
- d. improved street lighting can improve safety and reduce the chances of crime or anti-social behaviour.

### **Climate change implications**

20. The allocation of funds for the Devolved Highways programme does not have any direct climate change implications. However, the Funded Projects are in line with the council's Streets for People strategy which encourages active travel in order to reduce congestion and improve air quality within the borough.
21. The Funded Projects support the aims of the council's Climate Change Strategy under Priority 2 – Active and Sustainable Travel. Key aims of the council's Climate Change Strategy include to 'reduce car journeys to a minimum by 2030' and to 'be a borough where the walking and cycling becomes the default way to get around'. Part of meeting the borough's ambition of net zero emissions by 2030 includes a reduction in vehicle kilometres travelled and a shift to active and public transport; road transport currently accounts for 15% of the borough's emissions. The Funded Projects include the delivery of secure cycle parking facilities which will encourage cycling as a mode of transport over motor vehicles.
22. A just and inclusive transition is at the heart of the council's emerging climate policy. The Funded Projects prioritise the movement of people first and foremost, while retaining vehicle access for those who require it. In delivering a safer and more equitable highway network, these projects are in accordance with the council's approach to addressing the climate emergency.

### **Resource implications**

23. The total expenditure and sources of funding for the scheme will be monitored and reported on as part of the overall Capital Programme.

### **Legal implications**

24. Not applicable.

### **Financial implications**

25. On 7 April 2020, Cabinet approved the capital bid of £12.6 million to

allow current spend on highway planned maintenance for the following 10 years thereby approving the funding for the 2024-25 Devolved Highways programme.<sup>2</sup>

26. All professional fees related to the project are also treated as the capital costs of the project.
27. The total expenditure and sources of funding for the scheme will be monitored and reported as part of the overall Capital Programme.

### **Consultation**

28. All Devolved Highway projects require consultation with stakeholders, including the project applicant, local residents, tenants and residents associations and local community groups where appropriate. Statutory consultation will be carried out for any projects which require orders made under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**

#### **Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance (AGG 20/02/24)**

29. The North East Multi-Ward Forum is asked to approve the allocation of £152,380 for the 2024-25 Devolved Highways programme and to the Funded Projects within the North East Multi-Ward area as recommended by officers in paragraph 1 of this report. The North East Multi-Ward Forum has the authority to make this decision in accordance with paragraph 2, Part 3H of the council's constitution.
30. Officers have considered the council's PSED under section 149 of the 2010 Act at paragraphs 14 to 16 of this report and have concluded that at this stage the allocation of funds for the 2024-25 Devolved Highway programme is not considered to have any adverse impacts on persons with protected characteristics.
31. The Human Rights Act 1998 imposes a duty on the council as a public authority to apply the European Convention on Human Rights; as a result the council must not act in a way which is incompatible with these rights. The relevant rights for highway and traffic purposes are Article 8 (respect for homes); and Article 1 of the First Protocol (peaceful enjoyment of property). The allocation of funds for the 2024-25 Devolved Highway programme is not anticipated to engage or breach the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998.
32. Council Assembly on 14 July 2021 approved a change to the council's constitution to confirm that all decisions made by the council will consider the climate and equality (including socio-economic disadvantage and

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<sup>2</sup> [Policy and Resource Strategy Capital Monitoring Policy and Resources Strategy: capital monitoring report, including capital programme update 2019- 20 \(month 9\)](#)

health inequality) consequences of taking that decision. This has been considered at paragraphs 21 to 23 above.

**Strategic Director of Finance (CAP 23/084)**

33. This report seeks the approval of the North East Multi-ward area for the allocation of funds £152,380 for the 2024-25 Devolved Highway programme in the North East Multi-ward Area from the list of projects set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.
34. The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance notes the resource implications in the report that the proposed allocations will be contained within the council's capital programme.
35. It is also noted that officers' time and any other costs connected with this recommendation will be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
<p>Policy and Resource Strategy Capital Monitoring Policy and Resources Strategy: capital monitoring report, including capital programme update 2019-20 (month 9)</p> <p><a href="#">Issue details - Policy and Resources Strategy: capital monitoring report, including capital programme update 2019-20 - Southwark Council</a></p>	<p>Environment, Neighbourhoods and Growth / Highways 160 Tooley Street</p>	<p>George Mellish 020 7525 7903</p>
<p>Allocation of funds to wards via Cleaner Greener Safer and Devolved Highways Programmes 2018</p> <p><a href="#">Issue details - Allocation of funds to wards via Cleaner Greener Safer and Devolved Highways programmes - Southwark Council</a></p>	<p>Environment, Neighbourhoods and Growth / Highways 160 Tooley Street</p>	<p>George Mellish 020 7525 7903</p>
<p>Streets for People strategy 2023</p> <p><a href="#">Streets for People strategy 2023-30 by Southwark Council - Issue</a></p>	<p>Environment, Neighbourhoods and Growth / Highways 160 Tooley Street</p>	<p>George Mellish 020 7525 7903</p>
<p>Fairer, Greener, Safer Southwark's Council Delivery Plan</p> <p><a href="#">Fairer, Greener, Safer Southwark's Council Delivery Plan - Southwark Council</a></p>	<p>Environment, Neighbourhoods and Growth / Highways 160 Tooley Street</p>	<p>George Mellish 020 7525 7903</p>

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	North East Multi-ward Area Devolved Highway Capital programme 2024-25: Applications
Appendix 2	North East Multi-ward Area 2024-25: Officer Proposals

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Dale Foden, Head of Highways	
<b>Report Author</b>	George Mellish, Principal Engineer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	21.02.2024	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Assistant Chief Executive Governance and Assurance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance	Yes	Yes
Climate Change Director	Yes	Yes
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>		27 February 2024