

Item No. 9	Classification: Open	Date: 07 March 2022	Decision Taker: South Multi Ward Forum
Report title:		Devolved Highways 2022-23: Capital Funding Allocation (South)	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		Champion Hill, Dulwich Hill, Dulwich Wood, Dulwich Village & Goose Green	
From:		Head of Service – Highways	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Approves the reallocation of underspent funds carried forward from previous years underspend, current programme underspend and current programme project cancellations
2. Approves the allocation of funds for the 2022-23 Devolved Highways capital programme in the South Multi Ward Area from the list of applications set out in Appendix 1.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. 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.
4. Multi Ward areas are allocated a devolved fund of £800,000 each year from the total annual programme to spend on their priorities for highway renewal and maintenance that may not be prioritised as part of the borough-wide programme.
5. The financial provision for each community council is pro-rata by ward, as published in the Highways Capital Investment Programme 2014/15 report.
6. From 2017/18, the scope of the fund has been widened to permit the full range of minor traffic and highway capital schemes rather than solely like-for-like repair and replacement. Examples of the types of works which can now be funded include:
 - a. Footway and carriageway resurfacing.
 - b. Traffic calming.
 - c. Localised repairs.
 - d. Accessibility improvements.
 - e. Footway buildouts.
 - f. Cycle hangars.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

7. There is £146,875 available for the 2022-23 Devolved Highways capital programme for new projects in the South Multi Ward area.
8. There is £7,196 in additional funding from previous years underspend, current programme underspend and current programme project cancellations. The maximum spend available for allocation by the South Multi-Ward forum in the 2022-23 financial year is therefore: £154,071.
9. The application form invited expressions of interest for the applicants to deliver projects themselves. A due diligence exercise has been undertaken as part of the feasibility process to ensure that this is both practical and realistic.

Policy framework implications

10. The Devolved Highways programme is fully aligned with the Council's policies around sustainability, regeneration and community engagement.

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

Community impact statement

11. The roles and functions of Multi Ward areas include the promotion of involvement of local people in the democratic process and to take decisions about local matters.

12. The Multi Ward Forums have delegated authority in the following key areas:

- The Neighborhoods Fund
- Cleaner Greener Safer Fund
- Devolved Highways capital programmes
- Community project banks in accordance with Part 3H of the Council's Constitution.

13. An explicit objective within Multi Ward areas is that they be used to actively engage as widely as possible with, and bring together, Soutwark's diverse local communities on issues of shared or mutual interest. The Devolved Highways programme is an important tool in achieving community participation

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

14. In fulfilling the above objectives of Multi Ward areas to bring together and involve Soutwark's diverse local communities, consideration has also been given to the Council's duty under the Equality Act 2010 which requires the Council in the exercise of its functions and in its decision making to have due regard to:

- a. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct;
 - b. advance of equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristics and those who do not share it;
 - c. foster good relations between those who share a relevant characteristic and those that do not share it.
15. Of particular regard are issues of age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.
16. Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity is further defined in s.149 as having due regard to the need of:
- a. remove or minimise disadvantages connected with a relevant protected characteristic;
 - b. take steps to meet the different needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - c. encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic participate in public life or any other activity in which they are under-represented.
17. When undertaking the duties under section 149 the Council must ensure that:
- a. the duty must be fulfilled before the decision in question is enacted;
 - b. the duty must be exercised in substance with 'rigour and an open mind'; it is not a matter of ticking boxes; and
 - c. the duty is continuing; it does not end with the completion of any equalities impact assessment and due regard must be had as policy evolves and is implemented.
18. Ideas for Devolved Highways projects come from the local community, the majority via a simple project nomination form available in electronic and paper format.

Health impact statement

19. The following health benefits are possible or expected based on the types of projects normally funded via the Devolved Highways Programme.
20. 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.
21. Increased ownership over community public realm – this helps people within the community join together around a project, supporting connected and cohesive communities
22. 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 behavior.

Climate change implications

23. The proposals which are allocated funding are in line with the Council's movement plan which encourages active travel in order to reduce congestion and improve air quality within the Borough.

24. The report has clearly considered the proposed measures impact on climate change. The measures 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 km's travelled and a shift to active and public transport; road transport currently accounts for 15% of the borough's emissions. These measures strongly support that ambition.

25. A just and inclusive transition is at the heart of the council's emerging climate policy. These proposals 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, the measures are in accordance with the council's approach to addressing the climate emergency.

Resource implications

26. 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

27. Not applicable

Financial implications

28. The funding for the 2022/23 Devolved Highways capital programme was approved by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport Management and Air Quality as detailed in Allocation of funds to wards via Cleaner Greener Safer and Devolved Highways programmes report dated 20 December 2018.
29. All professional fees related to the project are also treated as the capital costs of the project.
30. The total expenditure and sources of funding for the scheme will be monitored and reported as part of the overall Capital Programme.

Consultation

31. All Devolved Highway projects require consultation with stakeholders, including the project applicant, local residents, Tenants and Residents Associations and local community groups where appropriate.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Governance – AGG (02/22)

32. Part 3H of the Council's Constitution provides that Multi Ward Forums can "approve the allocation of neighbourhood funds, cleaner, greener, safer and devolved highway capital schemes of a local nature using the resources and criteria identified by the cabinet." The recommendations in this report are therefore appropriate for determination by the South Multi Ward Forum.
33. The Council has a duty, pursuant to section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. Protected characteristics include age, sex, disability, pregnancy and maternity. Officers have considered the Public Sector Equality Duty as set out in paragraphs 14-18 of this report that and have concluded that at this time the recommendations will have no detrimental impacts on a particular protected group or on the equality of opportunity under the Equality Act 2010.
34. In regard to the equality duty under the Act, the allocation of funds from the devolved highways capital programme does not impact on equality of opportunity and protected characteristics of persons within the local community.
35. 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 health inequality) consequences of taking that decision. This has been considered in the report at paragraphs 23-25 above.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (CAP21/048)

36. This report seeks the approval of the South Multi Ward area for the allocation of funds (£146,875 + £7,196) for the 2022-23 Devolved Highway programme in the South Multi Ward Area from the list of applications set out in appendix 1.
37. 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.
38. 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
Highways Capital Investment Programme 2014-15	Environment and Leisure / Highways 160 Tooley Street	George Mellish 020 7525 7903
Link: https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s63869/Highways%20Capital%20Investment.pdf		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	South Multi Ward Area Devolved Highway Capital programme 2022-23: Applications
Appendix 2	South Multi Ward Area 2022-23: Unallocated Funding
Appendix 3	South Multi Ward Area 2022-23: Cancelled projects
Appendix 4	South Multi Ward Area 2022-23: Officer Proposals

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Head of Service – Highways
Report Author	George Mellish, Principal Engineer (Acting)
Version	Final

Dated	17.02.2022	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Governance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Climate Change	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team / Scrutiny Team		21.02.2022