

Item No. 10.	Classification: Open	Date: 7 March 2023	Decision Taker: West Central Multi-Ward Forum
Report title:		Devolved Highways 2023-24: Capital Funding Allocation (West Central)	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		Camberwell Green, Faraday, Newington, North Walworth, St Giles.	
From:		Head of Highways	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the West Central Multi-Ward Forum approves the reallocation of underspent funds carried forward from previous years' underspend, current programme underspend and current programme project cancellations that can be allocated towards projects listed in Appendices 1 and 3.
2. That the West Central Multi-Ward Forum approves the allocation of funds for the 2023-24 Devolved Highways capital programme in the West Central Multi-Ward Area from the list of applications set out in Appendix 1 and in consideration of the officer's proposal recommendations in Appendix 3.

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.
Cycle hangars.

- 7. Advertisement of the application process for project funding in the West Central Multi-ward area under the programme was carried out in local press, social media, council website and mailing lists from multi ward area forums.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 8. There is £190,475 available for the 2023-24 Devolved Highways capital programme for new projects in the West Central Multi-Ward area.
- 9. There is £171,400 in additional funding from previous years underspend, current programme underspend and current programme project cancellations. The maximum spend available for allocation by the West Central Multi-Ward Forum in the 2023-24 financial year is therefore: £361,875.
- 10. The application form for funding 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

- 11. The Devolved Highways programme is fully aligned with the council's policies around sustainability, regeneration and community engagement.
- 12. The Devolved Highways programme fully supports and aligns with the council's Streets for People strategy which outlines the council's ongoing commitment to, and ambition for, healthier neighbourhoods, cleaner air, thriving town centres and safer roads.

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

Community impact statement

- 13. The projects listed in Appendix 1 and/or Appendix 3 met the criteria of highway improvements that work towards policies set out in the Council's movement plan.
- 14. The funding application process itself invited ideas for projects to come from the local community. This has a positive impact in terms of the promotion of involvement of local people in the democratic process and so the allocation of funds promotes highway improvement schemes that work towards policies set out in the council's movement plan.

15. All projects also follow consultation procedures as set out in paragraph 31 of this report.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

16. The ideas for Devolved Highways 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, social media, council website and mailing lists from multi ward area forums.
17. Further consideration of equalities impacts will be carried out as the funded projects progress through the design stage.
18. The allocation of funds is not considered to have any adverse effect on socio-economic or health equalities. The allocation of funds will have no disproportionate impact on any particular age, gender, disability, faith, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation.

Health impact statement

19. One or more of the following health benefits are expected from allocation of funds 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 in Appendix 1 and 3 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 proposed measures listed in Appendix 1 and 3 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. These measure 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 2023-24 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

Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance

32. The West Central Multi-Ward Forum is asked to approve the re-allocation and allocation of Devolved Highways funds for the West Central Multi-ward area as detailed in paragraph 1-2 of this report.
33. Should the West Central Multi-Ward Forum be satisfied with the contents of this report they have the authority to make the decision recommended at paragraph 1 pursuant to paragraph 2, Part 3H of the council's constitution. This part of the constitution states 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."
34. 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 most important rights for highway and planning purposes are Article 8 (respect for homes); Article 6 (natural justice) and Article 1 of the First Protocol (peaceful enjoyment of property). The allocation of funds is not anticipated to engage or breach the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998.
35. 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 13 to 22 of this report and have concluded that at this time the proposals will have no detrimental impacts on a particular protected group or on the equality of opportunity under the Equality Act 2010.
36. 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

37. This report seeks the approval of the West Central Multi-ward area for the allocation of funds (£190,475 + £171,400) for the 2023-24 Devolved Highway programme in the West Central Multi-ward Area from the list of

applications set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 3.

38. 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.
39. 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/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=50002072&Opt=0		
Movement Plan 2019	Environment and Leisure / Highways 160 Tooley Street	George Mellish 020 7525 7903
Link (copy and paste into your browser): https://www.southwark.gov.uk/assets/attach/9415/Movement-Plan-2019.pdf		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	West Central Multi-ward Area Devolved Highway Capital programme 2023-24: Applications
Appendix 2	West Central Multi-ward Area 2023-24: Unallocated Funding
Appendix 3	West Central Multi-ward Area 2023-24: Officer Proposals

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Dale Foden, Head of Highways	
Report Author	George Mellish, Principal Engineer	
Version	Final	
Dated	21 February 2023	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Climate Change Director	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	22 February 2023	