

Item No. 9.	Classification: Open	Date: 26 March 2024	Decision Taker: North West Multi-Ward Forum
Report title:		Devolved Highways 2024-25: Capital Funding Allocation (North West)	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		London Bridge & West Bermondsey, Borough & Bankside, Chaucer & St. George's.	
From:		Head of Highways	

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the North West Multi-Ward Forum approves:

1. the allocation of £139,681 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 3 ("Funded Projects") within the North West Multi-Ward area;
2. the allocation of £10,095 remaining from previous years underspend to the Funded Projects within the North West Multi-Ward area; and
3. notes the maximum available funds for allocation by the North West Multi-Ward Forum in the 2024-25 financial year is £149,776.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4. The North West Multi-Ward Forum has the authority to approve the allocation of funds to devolved highway capital schemes within the North West Multi-Ward area using the resources and criteria identified by Cabinet pursuant to Part 3H of the council's Constitution.
5. The North West Multi-Ward area is made up of the London Bridge & West Bermondsey ward, the Borough and Bankside ward and the Chaucer & St. George's ward.
6. 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.
7. 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.

8. Funding is allocated to Multi-Ward areas based on the number of councillors.¹
9. The scope of the Devolved Highways programme 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.
10. Advertisement of the application process for project funding in the North West Multi-Ward area for 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 4th September and 22nd October 2023.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

11. There is £139,681 available for the 2024-25 Devolved Highways programme for new projects in the North West Multi-Ward area.
12. There is £10,095 in additional funding from previous years underspend. The maximum spend available for allocation by the North West Multi-Ward Forum in the 2024-25 financial year is therefore: £149,776.

Policy framework implications

13. 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.
14. 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

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

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

15. 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

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. At this stage no specific projects have been funded so 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

17. 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.

18. 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.
19. Increased ownership over community public realm – this helps people within the community join together around a project, supporting connected and cohesive communities.
20. 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

21. 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.
22. 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.
23. 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

24. 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

25. Not applicable.

Financial implications

26. 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.²

27. All professional fees related to the project are also treated as the capital costs of the project.

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

Consultation

29. 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)

30. The North West Multi-Ward Forum is asked to approve the allocation of £149,776 for the 2024-25 Devolved Highways programme and previous years underspend and to the Funded Projects within the North West Multi-Ward area as recommended by officers in paragraphs 1 to 3 of this report. The North West Multi-Ward Forum has the authority to make this decision in accordance with paragraph 2, Part 3H of the council's constitution.

31. 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

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

including previous years underspend is not considered to have any adverse impacts on persons with protected characteristics.

32. 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 including previous years underspend is not anticipated to engage or breach the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998.
33. 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 at paragraphs 21 to 23 above.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance

34. This report seeks the approval of the North West Multi-ward area for the allocation of funds (£139,681 + £10,095) for the 2024-25 Devolved Highway programme in the North West Multi-ward Area from the list of projects set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 3.
35. 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.
36. 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
Policy and Resource Strategy Capital Monitoring Policy and Resources Strategy: capital monitoring report, including capital programme update 2019-20 (month 9) Issue details - Policy and	Environment, Neighbourhoods and Growth / Highways 160 Tooley Street	George Mellish 020 7525 7903

Resources Strategy: capital monitoring report, including capital programme update 2019-20 - Southwark Council		
Allocation of funds to wards via Cleaner Greener Safer and Devolved Highways Programmes 2018 Issue details - Allocation of funds to wards via Cleaner Greener Safer and Devolved Highways programmes - Southwark Council	Environment, Neighbourhoods and Growth / Highways 160 Tooley Street	George Mellish 020 7525 7903
Streets for People strategy 2023 Streets for People strategy 2023-30 by Southwark Council - Issue	Environment, Neighbourhoods and Growth / Highways 160 Tooley Street	George Mellish 020 7525 7903
Fairer, Greener, Safer Southwark's Council Delivery Plan Fairer, Greener, Safer Southwark's Council Delivery Plan - Southwark Council	Environment, Neighbourhoods and Growth / Highways 160 Tooley Street	George Mellish 020 7525 7903

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	North West Multi-ward Area Devolved Highway Capital programme 2024-25: Applications
Appendix 2	North West Multi-ward Area 2024-25: Unallocated Funding
Appendix 3	North West Multi-ward Area 2024-25: Officer Proposals

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Dale Foden, Head of Highways
Report Author	George Mellish, Principal Engineer

Version	Final	
Dated	21.02.24	
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		18.03.2024