

**Forward Plan reference number:** N/A

<b>Report title:</b> <b>Local Highway Panel - Scheme Approvals for Essex Local Highway Panel Delivery for Financial Year 20/21</b>	
<b>Report to: Councillor Kevin Bentley, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Deputy Leader</b>	
<b>Report author: Andrew Cook, Director for Highways and Transportation</b>	
<b>Date: 20/04/2020</b>	<b>For: Decision</b>
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<b>County Divisions affected: Essex Wide</b>	

## **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1. For the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Deputy Leader to consider the schemes which have been recommended by the Essex Local Highway Panels.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. For the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Deputy Leader to approve and sign off recommended Local Highway Panel schemes, in consultation with the Director for Highways & Transportation.

## **3. Summary of issue**

- 3.1. Local Highway Panel meetings are held throughout Essex to identify local minor highway improvement schemes.
- 3.2. Local Highways Panel members have considered and recommended schemes within each Borough/City/District for approval by the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Deputy Leader. The report in Appendix 1 identifies the new schemes which each of the Local Highway Panels would like to recommend to be delivered in the 2020/21 financial year.

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- 3.3. The Local Highways Panels have been established across each Borough/City/District to provide a forum for elected Members to consider and make recommendations for small highway improvement schemes within their given area.
- 3.4. This report includes all 12 panel sign off approvals however does not include schemes which will be considered as part of the Casualty Reduction Programme for delivery in 2020/21. These will be signed by the Cabinet Member separately via their own CMA. It does however include any schemes which have been signed off in the previous financial year but require funding in 2020/21 to complete.

### 4. Options

1 - That the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Deputy Leader approves the scheme funding recommendations made by the Local Highways Panel for formal sign-off. This is the recommended option by the 12 Local Highway Panels and officers to ensure that the schemes chosen under Localism are delivered.

2 – That the Cabinet Member does not approve the schemes in Appendix 1 for funding in financial year 2020/21. The risk with this option is that the Local Highway Panel funding will not be spent on the schemes chosen via Localism.

### 5. Issues for consideration

- 5.1. **Financial implications** - All 12 Panels have been allocated individual funding budgets divided to take account a number of influences, including road length, population and employment statistics. The amount allocated to each District/Borough/City will have a floor of £200,000 and a ceiling of £500,000.

District	Budget	Appendix 1
Basildon	£300,000.00	£294,000
Braintree	£407,788.87	£389,000
Brentwood	£224,937.91	£54,000
Castle Point	£228,675.30	£223,500
Chelmsford	£673,500.00	£667,500
Colchester	£500,000.00	£479,300
Epping Forest	£376,774.98	£373,000
Harlow	£243,657.67	£242,000
Maldon	£200,000.00	£157,750
Rochford	£213,904.24	£206,500
Tendring	£395,240.49	£380,000
Uttlesford	£236,020.54	£216,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,000,500.00</b>	<b>£3,683,050</b>

- 5.1.2. All schemes are funded within the existing budget allocation. Not all panels have commissioned to 100% of their budget the majority should be able to

agree their remaining budget at their June panel meeting. Basildon LHP over delivered last financial year as their match funding was not paid this is why the budget has been reduced from £500,000 to £300,000. Chelmsford LHP has schemes from 2019/20, which have been slipped by agreement into 2020/21 to a value of £173,500. Epping Forest LHP has a scheme from 2019/20, which has been slipped by agreement into 2020/21 to a value of £27,000.

- 5.2. **Legal implications** All schemes are in line with Essex County Council policies, strategies and guidelines or have undergone the required CMA process to approve their progression.

## 6. **Equality and Diversity implications**

- 6.1. The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:
- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes discrimination etc. on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful
  - (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.
- 6.2. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, gender, and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).
- 6.3. The equality impact assessment indicates that the proposals in this report will not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic.
- 6.4. Each Local Highways Panel scheme varies from a speed survey to the installation of a traffic sign. Each local highway improvement scheme is in line with local and national policies which have already been subject to EqlA and no equality and diversity issues have been identified. Copy of EqlA is in Appendix 2.

## 7. **List of appendices**

Appendix 1 – Local Highways Panel Scheme Approvals Sheet –  
20/21 Programme of Works

Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment

## 8. List of Background papers

Scheme Request Forms and pertaining documentary evidence, Validation Reports, Proposal Scheme Lists are all available on request.

<b>I approve the above recommendations set out above for the reasons set out in the report.</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Councillor Kevin Bentley, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Deputy Leader</b>	24/04/2020

In consultation with:

<b>Role</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Director Highways and Transportation</b> <b>Andrew Cook</b>	23/04/2020
<b>Executive Director for Corporate and Customer Services (S151 Officer)</b> <b>Margaret Lee</b>	Consent not needed
<b>Director, Legal and Assurance (Monitoring Officer)</b> <b>Paul Turner</b>	Consent not needed
<b>Vicky Presland, Head of Design Services</b>	21/04/2020