



To: Community and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4)

Date: 18th March 2021

Subject: Highway Maintenance Capital Funding - Challenge Fund Delivery

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To update the Community and Neighbourhood Scrutiny Committee (4) on the progress of the delivery of £2.06m funding from the Department of Transport's (DfT) Challenge Fund.
- 1.2 To update the Committee on the reporting process to the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board are recommended to:
 - 1) Note the progress on delivering the Challenge Fund programme.
 - 2) Identify any recommendations for the Cabinet Member

3 Background and Current Position

- 3.1 In October 2019 the WMCA constituent authorities submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) to DfT seeking a proportion of the £100m Challenge Fund Tranche 2b pot. The Challenge Fund was subsequently allocated by formula distribution and the WMCA area received £16.488m.
- 3.2 DfT confirmed additional funding allocations on the 15th May 2020 for the Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund to the WMCA area. This funding is for highway maintenance activity and the allocation made available to Coventry as Highway Maintenance Block is £2.060m.
- 3.3 The Challenge fund bid was based on the EOI and following a meeting of the West Midlands Highway Infrastructure Managers Group (HIMG) in May 2020, the WMCA decided that the funding should be spent in line with the business case of the EOI. This was predicated on improving roads and pavements on bus routes which use the unclassified road network across the West Midlands.
- 3.4 A report was taken to CCC Cabinet in August 2020, to seek approval to spend the £2.06m funding as an additional resource to the Transportation and Highways Capital Investment Programme. The report is attached at Appendix 3.

- 3.5 Within Coventry the study showed that Coventry's pavements are in greater need of maintenance than roads, on the lengths of the routes submitted.
- 3.6 A previous study by Coventry Highways Officers identified locations where there are likely to be a higher proportion of vulnerable residents based on areas of sheltered housing and proximity to GP surgeries, health centres, shops, churches and meeting halls. This data has been mapped against the data collected for the EOI to target the additional funding on those pavements more likely to be used by vulnerable people.
- 3.7 To date 12 sites are completed as can be seen in Appendix 1. Work has progressed at a good pace over the last few months despite the challenges of Covid restrictions. The work has been delivered through our Highways Operations Civil Engineering Support Framework (CESF).
- 3.8 The work has principally involved removing old paving and replacing with safe tarmac surfacing. Some existing tarmac sites are being refreshed with a new surface treatment.
- 3.9 Progress is reported to the WMCA on a monthly basis, via mapping data and spreadsheets.
- 3.10 Before and after photos provide a great visual of the improvements made by the funding and can be seen at Appendix 2.

4 Appendices

- 4.1 Appendix 1 – List of Approved Sites and current status
- 4.2 Appendix 2 - Before and after photos
- 4.3 Appendix 3 – Transportation and Highways Supplementary report August 2020.

Neil Cowper

Head of Highways

Transportation and Highways

neil.cowper@coventry.gov.uk

02476 972065