

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....9th October 2014

1. Title of Item/Report

Highway Infrastructure Investment

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on the best use of additional resources that had been secured through government grant towards road maintenance activities and how resources could continually be targeted to support the most localised solutions which were able to be funded through the community participation budget which was due to end in March 2015. The report set out the intention of a £9M investment in highway and footpath maintenance activities which included small community participation projects over the next three years.

As part of the Council's 2014-15 budget setting process, Council agreed the allocation of £5.89M to support future investments. There were significant new developments coming forward across the Borough. A detailed Infrastructure Strategy in response to such developments, which was particularly relevant to South of the Borough was in production. An allocation of the above figure towards increased funding of roads and footpaths had been discussed however the Council had received external funding primarily towards investment in roads and footpaths and a scrutiny review of road and footpath maintenance was ongoing which would help identify areas to be targeted for further interventions over and above normal spending patterns.

The community participation budget had over a number of years provided a successful mechanism to carry out very localised solutions to problems with highway infrastructure and these could include car parking and fencing that aid pedestrian and traffic movements. The report considered the additional resources for highway and footpath maintenance that were being considered by the Regeneration & Transport Select Committee, what opportunities would exist to use this mechanism to continue to provide local selections on a ward by ward basis.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:-

1. The success of the community participation budget be noted and the use of £800K over the financial years 2015-16 and 2016-17 (£400K per year) be approved from the approved Medium Term Financial Plan allocation for investment to use on local highway and environmental improvements using the community participation budget protocols and funding distribution mechanism.

RESOLVED that:-

2. The additional funding received from Government for additional highway and footpath maintenance be noted. The Council's Regeneration & Transport Scrutiny Committee are currently reviewing the priorities for this additional spend which would be reported to Cabinet separately.

3. It be noted that over the next three years £9M will be available from government grant and additional revenue support for the investment in highway and footpath maintenance and community participation budget project.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The community participation budget has provided a successful mechanism for ward councillors to bring forward minor capital improvements. This funding is scheduled to cease on 31 March 2015 as part of the Council's approved Medium Term Financial Plan. It is recognised the value this process has at a very local level particularly in carrying out solutions that would not normally attract mainstream funding.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on Friday, 17th October 2014 for recommendations 2 and 3

Proper Officer  
13 October 2014