

Title of Report:	Funding for Resurfacing of Flood Damaged Roads
Report to be considered by:	Executive
Date of Meeting:	8 May 2014
Forward Plan Ref:	Urgent item

Purpose of Report:	To seek funding to complete the full programme of repairs to roads damaged in the 2014 floods.
Recommended Action:	That the Executive authorise additional capital expenditure of £522,000 in 2014/15, to be funded from a one off contribution from balances, to meet the shortfall in grant funding to enable the repairs programme to be completed.
Reason for decision to be taken:	To enable the condition of damaged roads to be restored to a good standard.
Other options considered:	Reducing the size of the programme thus leaving some roads in poor condition.

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the following Council Strategy priority:

CSP2 – Promoting a vibrant district

Portfolio Member Details	
Name & Telephone No.:	Councillor Pamela Bale and Councillor Alan Law
E-mail Address:	pbale@westberks.gov.uk and alaw@westberks.gov.uk
Date Portfolio Members agreed report:	14 April 2014

Contact Officer Details	
Name:	Mark Edwards
Job Title:	Head of Highways and Transport
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Implications

- Policy:** Completing the full Programme will ensure continued compliance with the Highway Asset Management Plan.
- Financial:** The additional capital expenditure is proposed to be funded from balances and so there are no additional revenue implications.
- Personnel:** None arising from this report.
- Legal/Procurement:** Work will be procured through the Highway Term Contract.
- Property:** None arising from this report.
- Risk Management:** If full Programme is not completed there is a risk of further third party claims being made against the Council.

Is this item relevant to equality?	Please tick relevant boxes		Yes	No
Does the policy affect service users, employees or the wider community and:				
• Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Is it a major policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Will the policy have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to an area with known inequalities?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Outcome (Where one or more 'Yes' boxes are ticked, the item is relevant to equality)				
Relevant to equality - Complete an EIA available at www.westberks.gov.uk/eia			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Not relevant to equality			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Is this item subject to call-in?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:		
The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval		<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council		<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position		<input type="checkbox"/>
Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months		<input type="checkbox"/>
Item is Urgent Key Decision		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Report is to note only		<input type="checkbox"/>

Executive Summary

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council's annual Highway Improvement Programme was approved by Individual Decision on 18 February 2014. The 71 schemes in the programme were originally assessed in late 2013, prior to the adverse weather and subsequent flooding which affected large areas of the road network in early 2014.
- 1.2 On 9 March 2014, the Secretary of State for Transport announced that he would be making £140 million available to highway authorities in England to help repair damage to the local road network caused by the recent severe weather. Council's were given three days to submit a bid. The Highways and Transport Service submitted its bid on 12 March 2014, meeting the deadline. The bid was not for a specific sum of money but related to road length and the number of highway bridges damaged by floods. The submission covered 41 roads and is shown in Appendix A.
- 1.3 On 20 March 2014, the Leader of the Council received notification from the Department of Transport that the Council would be receiving a Section 31 grant for additional highway maintenance funding to the value of £1,489,480 to be paid to the Council on 28 March 2014.

2. Funding

- 2.1 Whilst we welcome the grant it would leave a funding shortfall of approximately £522,000 if the full programme is to be completed. Further details are provided in the main report.

3. Equalities Impact Assessment Outcomes

- 3.1 This item is not relevant to equality.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 Existing budgets, including the £1.5m DfT grant, are insufficient to enable the Flood Damage Programme to be completed. It should be noted that the annual Highway Improvement Programme is fully funded.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 Members are asked to consider this report and to determine whether the funding shortfall of £522,000 can be provided.
- 5.2 The Capital Strategy Group of Officers and Members recommend that the shortfall is funded by a one off contribution from balances.

Executive Report

1. Introduction

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- 1.2 On 9 March 2014, the Secretary of State for Transport announced that he would be making £140 million available to highway authorities in England to help repair damage to the local road network caused by the recent severe weather. Council's were given three days to submit a bid. The Highways and Transport Service submitted its bid on 12 March 2014, meeting the deadline.
- 1.3 It should be noted that the bid was not for a specific sum of money but related to road length and the number of highway bridges damaged by floods. The Council submitted a bid for repairs to 6.37 miles of A and B class road, 14.5 miles of C class and unclassified road and 11 highway structures. It was estimated that the total value of the required road repairs was £2.06m covering 41 roads, included at Appendix A. Regarding the highway structures, the full extent of any damage caused by flood water has yet to be fully determined due to fast flowing and high water levels. However the repair bill is estimated to be approximately £250,000.
- 1.4 On 20 March 2014, the Leader of the Council received notification from the Department of Transport that the Council would be receiving a Section 31 grant for additional highway maintenance funding to the value of £1,489,480 to be paid to the Council on 28 March 2014.

2. Funding

- 2.1 As can be seen from the figures above this leaves a significant shortfall in funding if the full programme is to be completed. A summary of the details is as follows.

£2,062,000	Estimated cost of road repairs
<u>£ 250,000</u>	Provisional cost of bridge repairs
£2,312,000	Total cost of repairs
<u>£1,489,480</u>	DfT Grant
£ 822,520	Gross shortfall
<u>£ 300,000</u>	Estimated procurement efficiency savings
£ 522,000	Net shortfall

- 2.2 Three options for funding the shortfall were considered by the Capital Strategy Group on the 24th April:
- (i) Fund from existing revenue provision for capital spend in the MTFs which has yet to be fully allocated to fund capital projects in the Capital Programme 2014/15 - 2018/19. This option is affordable within the existing revenue provision for capital, but would reduce the availability of funding to meet other capital pressures, e.g. fully funding the Council's ICT strategy.

- (ii) Increase the existing revenue provision for Capital. This option would require an additional £60,000 revenue provision per year.
- (iii) Fund from balances. This would reduce the level of balances available for other purposes, but would require no additional revenue provision, while still leaving some flexibility within the existing capital programme to fund other pressures.

2.3 The annual revenue cost of borrowing £522,000 over 10 years is £60,000 which could potentially be funded from within the existing revenue provision as described above.

3. Conclusion

3.1 Existing budgets, including the £1.5m DfT grant, are insufficient to enable the Flood Damage Programme to be completed and if the programme is to be completed in full then the shortfall will need to be funded. It should be noted that the annual Highway Improvement Programme is fully funded.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 Members are asked to consider this report and to determine whether the funding shortfall of £522,000 can be provided.
- 4.2 The Capital Strategy Group recommends that the additional expenditure should be funded from a one off contribution from balances.

Appendices

Appendix A – Schedule of flood damaged roads.

Consultees

Local Stakeholders: Not applicable

Officers Consulted: Melvyn May, Gabrielle Esplin, John Ashworth and Corporate Board

Trade Union: Not applicable

Appendix A - Schedule of Flood Damaged Roads

Road Class	Road Name	Town/Village	Location
A	A338 Wantage Road	Great Shefford	Near "Trindledown Farm"
A	A338 Wantage Road	Great Shefford	Valley Road to Blakeney Fields
A	A339 / B4640 Newtown	Greenham	A339 Roundabout to District Boundary
A	A4 Bath Road	Thatcham	Northfield Road / Green Lane
A	B4000	Upper Lambourn	Near Lynchets View
B	B4000 Ermin Street	Wickham	From High Street towards Wickham
B	B4000 Ermin Street	Wickham Heath	Sections through 50mph village
B	B4000 Wickham Road	Stockcross	Through Village
B	B4009 Long Lane	Hermitage	Priors Court Road to Curridge Road
A	A338 Wantage Road	Great Shefford	Blakeney Fields to north end of village
B	Ashampstead Road	Ashampstead	Back La, Bradfield to Yattendon Lane
B	B4001 Wantage Road	Lambourn	Sheepdrove Road to Mile End
C	Common Hill	Englefield	A340 to Union Road
U	Cope Hall Lane	Enborne	Skinnners Green Lane to Essex Street
C	Crookham Common Road	Thatcham	Thornford Road to Travellers Friend
C	Dog Lane	Ashampstead	B4009 Haw Lane to Ashampstead Village
U	Enborne Street	Enborne	Villiers Way to Andover Grove
U	Fifth Road	Newbury	Buckingham Road to Valley Road
C	Furze Hill	Stockcross	A4 to B4000
U	High Street	Upper Lambourn	B4000 to PROW58

U	Irish Hill Road	Kintbury	Newbury Street to Park Lane
U	Jaques Lane	Sulhamstead	Folly Lane to Sulhamstead Road
U	Lambourn Valley Way	Upper Lambourn	Village to District Boundary
U	Maddle Road	Upper Lambourn	Near Stables
U	Mans Hill	Burghfield	Downslopes to stream
C	Newbury Road	Eastbury	Longhedge to The Plough Eastbury
C	Park Lane	Marsh Benham	Milkhouse Lane cross roads to level crossing
C	Park Lane	Hamstead Marshall	600m north of Ashtree Corner, Hamstead Marshall
C	Priors Court Road	Hermitage	A34 Overbridge / B4009
C	Rood Hill	Easton	Near M4 overbridge
C	School Road	Chieveley	Near school
C	Spray Road	Inkpen	NE of The Drove
C	Templeton Road	Kintbury	Old Lane to Kintbury Road
U	Un-named Road	Bagnor	River Lambourn over bridge to Bagnor Marsh
C	Un-named Road to Oakhouse Cottages	Hampstead Norreys	B4009 to Oakhouse Farm
C	Valley Road	Weston	Through Hamlet
U	Wheatlands Lane	Enborne	"Craven Arms" PH to Boames Lane
C	Winterbourne Road	Boxford	Winterbourne Wood to Boxford Farm
C	Yattendon Road	Upper Basildon	Buckhold Hill to Ashampstead Road
U	Dean's Copse Road	Sulhamstead	Bennett's Hill to Hose Hill
U	Sulhamstead Road	Burghfield	Jaques Lane to Clay Hill Road