

Network Management – Minor Works Programme 2020-21

Committee considering report:	Individual Executive Member Decisions
Date of Committee:	05 March 2020
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Richard Somner
Date Head of Service agreed report: (for Corporate Board)	N/A
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	N/A
Report Author:	Neil Stacey
Forward Plan Ref:	ID3874

1. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Network Management Minor Works Programme (previously known as the Traffic Management and Road Safety Works Programme) for 2020-21.

2. Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside approves the proposed Minor Works Programme as presented in Appendix C of this report.

3. Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	
Financial:	The Minor Works Programme will be funded from various Capital and Revenue budgets approved as part of the Council's overall budget for 2020-21.			
Human Resources:	N/A			
Legal:	N/A			
Risk Management:	Projects within the Programme will be managed in accordance with the relevant processes in respect of financial and health & safety risks.			
Property:	N/A			
Policy:	N/A			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision,	x			

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including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?				
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		x		
Environmental Impact:	x			Some of the projects will deliver infrastructure to encourage or enable sustainable travel and will therefore have a beneficial impact on the environment.
Health Impact:	x			Some of the projects will deliver infrastructure to encourage or enable active travel and will therefore have a beneficial impact on the health.
ICT or Digital Services Impact:		x		
Council Strategy Priorities or Business as Usual:	x			Some of the projects to be undertaken as part of the Minor Works Programme will support the priority to <u>maintain a green district</u> . Specifically, projects will help deliver the commitments to <u>develop more sustainable transport solutions which protect the environment</u> (for example the provision of infrastructure for public transport and electric vehicles) and <u>promote and improve cycleways in the District</u> (for example the construction of improved routes in Newbury and Thatcham).
Data Impact:		x		
Consultation and Engagement:				All Ward Members have been consulted as to the content of this report. A summary of responses is as follows: <i>No comments received as of 18/03/2020. Any comments received after publication of this report will be reported at the Individual Decision meeting.</i>

4. Executive Summary

- 4.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Network Management Minor Works Programme (previously known as the Traffic Management and Road Safety Works Programme) for 2020-21.
- 4.2 The Council's Capital Programme and Revenue budget for 2020-21, approved at the Council meeting on 3rd March 2020, allocate funding for the delivery of a range of projects and services, many of which are the responsibility of the Network Management

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team in the Transport and Countryside Service. The purpose of the Minor Works Programme is to list the projects and services proposed to be delivered in the forthcoming financial year and to confirm a formal mandate to proceed with them. This report presents the proposed programme to the Executive Member for Transport and Countryside for approval.

5. Supporting Information

Introduction

- 5.1 The following explains the need for a Minor Works Programme and the type of projects and services that it contains.

Background

- 5.2 For many years, the Traffic Management & Road Safety team was part of the wider Traffic Services team and published an annual programme of work to set out what projects and services it would deliver over the course of the next financial year. Projects included improvement schemes such as changes to speed limits, local safety improvements, traffic signal upgrades, reviews of parking restrictions and also maintenance schemes such as refurbishing road markings (white lines) and repairing or replacing signs. Services included arranging temporary road closures to facilitate roadworks, providing cycle training to children, collecting vehicle speed data, various road safety education campaigns and the general maintenance of traffic signals.
- 5.3 In 2019, the three Highways teams within the Transport and Countryside Service, (Highways, Projects and Traffic) were reorganised into two teams, Asset Management and Network Management. The Traffic Management & Road Safety team still exists, as part of Network Management, but is no longer responsible for road closures, sign/line maintenance or traffic signals.
- 5.4 As well as the Traffic Management & Road Safety team, two other teams within Network Management now deliver small and medium sized improvement projects, mainly using capital budgets. It is therefore proposed to widen the programme to include the work of the ITS & Sustainable Travel team and the Network Improvements team. These three teams will work flexibly together to deliver the programme as a whole.
- 5.5 The newly formed ITS (Intelligent Transport Systems) & Sustainable Travel team is responsible for maintaining, monitoring and improving the Council's traffic signals and monitoring the Urban Traffic Management and Control (UTMC) system. It is also tasked with implementing projects to improve infrastructure for sustainable travel, including footways and cycleways, public transport and electric vehicles.
- 5.6 The Network Improvements team, which was previously part of the Projects team, is mainly responsible for delivering major projects, such as the recent A339 "Sainsbury's" roundabout improvements and the construction of the new junction from the A339 into the London Road Industrial Estate. Projects of this size are listed in the Capital Programme in their own right and will therefore not feature in the Minor Works Programme. However, the Network Improvements team has the capacity to assist the Traffic & Road Safety and ITS teams to deliver small and medium sized projects not specifically listed in the Capital Programme.

Proposals

- 5.7 A proposed programme of works for the 2020-21 financial year has been compiled based on the budgets available and the staff resources in each of the teams. The programme is included as Appendix C. Some projects have been included based on a specific need identified by Officers, for example the refurbishment of life-expired traffic lights on Theale Swing Bridge. Other projects have been included as a result of requests from stakeholders over the course of previous months or years, for example the proposed Zebra crossing on Brummel Road in Newbury.
- 5.8 Further projects may be identified over the course of the year and implemented using any funds remaining once the projects listed have been delivered or if the projects listed are delayed by unforeseen circumstances. This also gives officers a degree of operational flexibility to implement minor works using existing budgets where a need is identified during the year. Non-project based activities, particularly services delivered by the Traffic and Road Safety team, are also listed on the programme, for example road safety education campaigns and speed management initiatives.
- 5.9 Reactive work such as responding to customer requests, petitions and Council motions, is included in the programme. However, it should be noted that although estimates have been made regarding the volume of such work, the delivery of project-based work can be delayed by reactive work due to the need to respond within reasonable timescales.

6. Other options considered

Not publishing a Minor Works Programme. Without an approved programme of works, however, the Network Management team would have no formal mandate to implement any particular improvement schemes or deliver any particular road safety initiatives. This would require several separate decisions to be made over the course of the year, which would not be an efficient use of time for either Officers or Members and is therefore not recommended.

7. Conclusion

The Minor Works Programme gives the Network Management team a formal mandate to implement a series of highway enhancement projects and to deliver a range of non-project services within the agreed budgets. This report presents the programme to the Executive Member for Transport and Countryside for approval.

8. Appendices

Appendix C – Proposed Network Management Minor Works Programme 2020-21

Corporate Board's recommendation:

Not applicable as this is an Individual Executive Member Decision

Background Papers:

None

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval

Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council

Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position

Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months

Item is Urgent Key Decision

Report is to note only

Wards affected: All wards in the district will potentially benefit from the projects and services delivered under this programme of work.

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Appendix C

Network Management Minor Works Programme 2020-21

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