

Individual Decision



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The attached report will be taken as Individual Portfolio Member Decision on:

Friday 10 April 2026

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Highways Network Management Works Programme 2026-27

Committee considering report:	Individual Executive Member Decisions
Date of Decision:	10 th April 2026
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Stuart Gourley
Date Head of Service agreed report: <i>(for Corporate Board)</i>	N/A
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	N/A
Report Author:	Andy Alty
Forward Plan Ref:	ID 4784

1 Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Highways Network Management Works Programme for 2026-27.

2 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways approves the proposed Highways Network Management Works Programme for 2026-27 as presented in Appendix A of this report.

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	The Highways Network Management Works Programme will be funded from various Capital and Revenue budgets approved as part of the Council’s overall budget for 2026-27.
Human Resource:	N/A
Legal:	Some projects on the programme will require the assistance of Legal Services, particularly the drafting and sealing of Traffic Regulation Orders.

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, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		x		
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?	x			Some of the projects will be implemented in such a way as to improve conditions for vulnerable road users, for example disabled people and children.
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 of those using the infrastructure.

ICT Impact:		X		
Digital Services Impact:		X		
Council Strategy Priorities:	X			Some of the projects to be undertaken as part of the Programme will support the Council Strategy Priorities “Tackling the climate and ecological emergency” and “Thriving communities with a strong local voice”.
Core Business:		X		
Data Impact:		X		
Consultation and Engagement:	<p>All Ward Members have been consulted as to the content of this report.</p> <p>No comments were received.</p> <p>Any further comments will be reported verbally at the Individual Decision meeting.</p>			

4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Highways Network Management Works Programme for 2026-27.
- 4.2 The Council’s Capital Programme and Revenue budget for 2026-27, approved at the Council meeting in February 2026, allocate funding for the delivery of a range of projects and services, many of which are the responsibility of the Highways Network Management team in the Environment Department. The purpose of the Programme is to list the projects and services proposed to be delivered each financial year and to confirm a formal mandate to proceed with them. This report presents the proposed programme to the Executive Member for Environment and Highways.

5 Supporting Information

Introduction

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

Background

5.2 The Highways Network Management Team, within the Environment Department, is comprised of five sub-teams, described as follows:

5.3 The Traffic Management & Road Safety team's responsibilities include:

- (a) The management and regulation of traffic (for example by implementing speed limits, parking restrictions and installing associated traffic signs);
- (b) Investigating road traffic accident records and implementing measures to prevent such accidents;
- (c) Implementing engineering measures to improve road safety outside and close to schools;
- (d) Providing cycle training to children;
- (e) Collecting vehicle speed data and undertaking engineering and education measures to encourage compliance with speed limits;
- (f) Road safety education campaigns, particularly aimed at vulnerable road users.

5.4 The Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) & Sustainable Travel Infrastructure team is responsible for:

- (a) Maintaining, operating and improving the Council's stock of traffic signals and variable message signs;
- (b) Using computer-based systems to optimise the operation of traffic signals to manage traffic flows efficiently;
- (c) The ongoing development and implementation of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and the identification of future schemes to improve sustainable travel infrastructure;
- (d) The delivery of smaller projects associated with improving sustainable travel infrastructure;
- (e) Installing, maintaining and monitoring Electric Vehicle Charging Points on the Highway.

5.5 The Projects team is responsible for delivering larger highway projects, some of which are listed in the Capital Programme in their own right. The Projects team also assists the Traffic & Road Safety and ITS teams to deliver small and medium sized projects, including those related to sustainable travel infrastructure. This team also carries out feasibility assessments and compiles cost estimates for potential future projects.

5.6 The Highways Development Control team:

- (a) Assesses the Highways impact of planning applications and determines appropriate mitigation measures to accommodate any adverse impacts;

- (b) Provides a street naming and numbering service;
- (c) Supervises the construction of developer-led projects on the Highway.

5.7 The Streetworks team:

- (a) Manages and co-ordinates applications for permits to undertake works on the Highway;
- (b) Provides information to stakeholders, especially in respect of potentially disruptive work on the Highway;
- (c) Inspects third party sites to ensure compliance with permit conditions and technical specifications;
- (d) Where necessary, issues fixed penalty notices to works promoters who do not comply with the conditions of their permits.

5.8 The Traffic Management & Road Safety, ITS & Sustainable Travel Infrastructure and Projects teams all contribute to the delivery of the Works Programme, whereas the Highways Development Control and Streetworks teams do not deliver their own projects on the Highway.

Additional information regarding changes to Speed Limits

5.9 Requests for new or amended speed limits are considered by the Speed Limit Review Task Group, which consists of Council officers, Members and the Police. When assessing the requests the Task Group considers current guidance (principally the Department for Transport Circular 01/2013 'Setting local speed limits'), traffic survey results, the number of recorded injury accidents and the local road environment. The aim of this process is to ensure that speed limits are set consistently and at a level which will achieve a high level of compliance. Any changes agreed by the Task Group can only be implemented subject to a statutory consultation process.

5.10 The Council is committed to implementing more 20mph speed limits in residential areas where local residents support them. Following a pilot scheme to introduce a 20mph limit covering the majority of residential roads in Theale, further area-wide 20mph speed limit projects have been developed. 20mph projects currently sit outside the Speed Limit Review process and any requests for 20mph speed limits that are received separately will be considered as part of the development of area-wide projects.

Additional information regarding Active Travel Infrastructure Projects

5.11 Active travel infrastructure projects involve the construction of new, or improvements to existing facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. Active Travel England, an Executive Agency of the Department for Transport, oversees and allocates funds to local councils to deliver improvements to active travel infrastructure. As well as funds awarded by Active Travel England, the Council has allocated its own capital funding to active travel schemes. The Council's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan ("[LCWIP](#)") sets out plans to develop a network of walking and cycling routes and helps to prioritise the many requests for this type of project that are received.

5.12 Larger scale active travel infrastructure projects are normally implemented by the Projects team and are subject to stakeholder consultation before construction.

Capital Finance

5.13 Capital budgets were approved at the Council meeting in February 2026 as follows:

Network Management/Safety Improvements	95,000
Traffic Signal Upgrades	70,000
Active Travel Infrastructure	1,845,260
School Safety Programme	96,000
Speed Limits	200,000
	2,306,260

Proposals

5.14 The proposed programme is included as Appendix A. Most projects have been included as a result of requests from stakeholders over the course of previous months or years, but some activities reflect statutory requirements such as the maintenance of traffic signals or the management of the school crossing patrol service.

5.15 Schemes are grouped together on the programme according to the type of project, which largely reflect the budget from which they are funded. Schemes are listed under each heading in priority order, which therefore reflects the order in which they will be delivered.

5.16 The Network Management team aims to complete the projects listed in the programme before the end of the 2026-27 financial year, assuming that the team is fully staffed, with the exception of larger projects which may extend across two or more years. Any projects which are not complete at the end of the year would be carried forward to following year.

5.17 Further projects may be identified over the course of the year and added to the programme in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways, but unless there is a compelling reason to deliver them quickly, these will be highlighted as new projects and will receive a lower priority than those already on the programme.

5.18 Where a stakeholder request requires a significant amount of work to assess whether it should be implemented, it is added to the "Assessments, Reports and Feasibility" section of the programme. Only when the assessment has concluded that the request should be implemented will it be added to the relevant section of the programme.

5.19 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 and speed management initiatives.

5.20 Reactive work, such as responding to customer requests, 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 high priority

reactive work related to petitions and Council motions due to the need to respond to time-critical issues within reasonable timescales.

6 Options for consideration

- 6.1 It is considered that the approach outlined above is the most appropriate way of recording, managing and monitoring the various projects delivered by the Network Management Team. This approach has been developed over several years and refined in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.
- 6.2 The alternative option would be to not have Works Programme. Without an approved programme, however, the Network Management team would have no formal mandate to implement any particular improvement schemes or deliver any particular road safety initiatives. There would be no formal, published record of the projects that the team has committed to delivering. This could 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 Governance

- 7.1 Smaller projects, feasibility assessments and business as usual activities will be managed and prioritised in discussion with the Environment and Highways Portfolio Holder. Larger projects and substantial programmes of work will be governed via the Council's Corporate Programme Board.

8 Conclusion

- 8.1 The Highways Network Management 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 approval.

9 Appendices

Appendix A – Proposed Highways Network Management Works Programme 2026-27

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 Scrutiny Commission or associated Committees or Task Groups within preceding six months
- Item is Urgent Key Decision
- Report is to note only

Wards affected: All wards are affected by the work of the Highways Network Management team to some degree.

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Appendix A – Draft Programme 2026-27

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Highways Network Management Works Programme 2026-27		
Ref	Type of Activity / Lead Team	Project/Activity/Location
	Individual Projects named in the Capital Programme	
1	Projects	A339/A4 Robin Hood Roundabout, Newbury - junction improvements
2	ITS & Sustainable Travel	Various locations - Installation of on-street EV charge points.
81051	Speed Limit Schemes	
1	Traffic & Road Safety	A339 Greenham/Newbury - 40mph speed limit
2	Traffic & Road Safety	B4000, Streatley Hill - 40 mph speed limit
3	Traffic & Road Safety	A340, Tidmarsh - Gateway feature
4	Traffic & Road Safety	Sanham Green, Hungerford - 30mph speed limit
5	Traffic & Road Safety	Cow Lane, East Ilsley - Extension of 30mph speed limit
6	Traffic & Road Safety	Various locations - Area wide 20mph speed limits
7	Traffic & Road Safety	2026 review, inc A4 Bath Road Ufton Nerve/Padworth and Crookham Common
8	Traffic & Road Safety	Various locations - speed limit signing improvements inc. Vehicle Activated Signs
81103	Network Management/Safety Improvements	
1	Traffic & Road Safety	Newbury Town Centre traffic management
2	Projects	Reading Road, Burghfield Common - improved crossing point near Guide Dogs HQ
3	Traffic & Road Safety	Various locations - Implementation of Parking Amendment 36
4	Traffic & Road Safety	Various locations - Implementation of Parking Amendment 37
5	Projects	Grove Road, Newbury - signing and lining improvements throughout
6	Traffic & Road Safety	Various locations - Repair, maintenance and replacement of Vehicle Activated Signs
7	Traffic & Road Safety	Various locations - Parking Amendment 38 - Experimental for EV bays
8	Traffic & Road Safety	A329, Oxford Road, Tilehurst/Purley - Signing improvements at informal crossing
9	Traffic & Road Safety	B3421 Hambridge Road/Junction Terrace - Signing improvements
10	Traffic & Road Safety	A4/A340 junction Road Safety measures
11	Traffic & Road Safety	A4/Nader Hill, Stockcross - Weight limit review
12	Traffic & Road Safety	External Study into weight limits on B4009 Streatley Hill and Lambourn Valley Road
13	Traffic & Road Safety	External Study into accidents and safety option on B4000 Ermin Street
14	Traffic & Road Safety	Red Lane/Welshmans lining and signing enhancement
15	Projects	A339, Greenham/Newbury - New local direction sign when at Pinchington Lane roundabout
16	Traffic & Road Safety	Jennetts Hill, Bradfield/Stanford Dingley - Improved signing
17	Traffic & Road Safety	Charrington Road, Calcot - replacement advance direction sign
18	Traffic & Road Safety	Various roads in Great Shefford - improved warning and speed limit signs
19	Traffic & Road Safety	Church Side, East Ilsley - Dropped kerb
20	Traffic & Road Safety	Curridge,Thatcham and Ufton Nerve - Horse warning signs
21	Traffic & Road Safety	Four Houses Corner, Padworth Road - Improved junction warning signs and SLOW markings
22	Traffic & Road Safety	Boundary Road, Newbury - Additional speed cushion
23	Traffic & Road Safety	A4/A34, Speen - Lane markings coming from A34, subject to National Highways Agreement
24	Traffic & Road Safety	Newbury Street, Kintbury - Signing Improvements
25	Traffic & Road Safety	A339 Cheap Street junction, Newbury - Yellow box junction markings
26	Traffic & Road Safety	A339, Greenham - No Right turn into Brackenwood Lane
27	Traffic & Road Safety	Oxford St Eddington TRO correction
28	Traffic & Road Safety	Winkworth Lane, Aldermaston - TRO correction
29	Traffic & Road Safety	Cross Lane/Goodboys Lane, Wokefield - Prohibition of motor vehicles to prevent fly tipping
30	Projects	Berry's Lane, Burghfield - improvements to existing junction with Pingewood Road north
31	Projects	Pembroke Road/West Street, Newbury - junction widening and new bollard
81379	School Safety Improvements	
1	Traffic & Road Safety	A339, Greenham/Newbury - Pedestrian guard rail at traffic signals
2	Traffic & Road Safety	Various locations - Repair, maintenance and replacement of School Flashing Signs
3	Traffic & Road Safety	Springfield Primary School, Barton Road Tilehurst - Make experimental scheme permanent.
4	Traffic & Road Safety	Enborne Primary School - zig zag review
5	Traffic & Road Safety	Fir Tree Lane Primary School, Newbury - Safety review
6	Traffic & Road Safety	Englefield Road, Theale - No Right Turn into Primary School
7	Traffic & Road Safety	Bucklebury Primary School enhanced signage
81186	Traffic Signals and Systems Upgrades	
1	ITS & Sustainable Travel	Refurbishment of Toucan Crossing on A339 by Newbury College (site ref PN128)
2	ITS & Sustainable Travel	Traffic signals component replacement as required
3	ITS & Sustainable Travel	Bartholomew Street/Market Street, Newbury - junction refurbishment
4	ITS & Sustainable Travel	Bartholomew Street/Pound Street, Newbury - junction refurbishment
5	ITS & Sustainable Travel	District wide - Traffic CCTV improvements
81236	Active Travel Infrastructure	
1	Projects	Newbury canal towpath - Contribution to the "Reimagining the Canalside" partnership programme
2	Projects	A4/Crown Mead - complete final cycle lane and yellow lines to remove parking
3	Projects	Contribution to Mortimer-Burghfield pedestrian/cycle route
4	Projects	Priors Court Road, Hermitage - footway and crossing improvements
5	ITS & Sustainable Travel	Various locations - new cycle parking facilities
6	ITS & Sustainable Travel	Various locations, Newbury and Thatcham - improved cycle direction signs with Linkway branding
7	ITS & Sustainable Travel	South east Thatcham area - sustainable routes to Thatcham railway station
8	ITS & Sustainable Travel	Northcroft Lane area, Newbury - Cycle/pedestrian improvements
9	Projects	A338, Great Shefford - new footway from Malt House to Newbury Road
10	Projects	London Road, Newbury - replace zebra crossing beacons east of the clocktower
11	Projects	Dark Lane and Cotswold Way, Tilehurst - Informal crossings/dropped kerbs
12	Traffic & Road Safety	Kingsland Centre access road, Thatcham - Dropped kerbs
13	Traffic & Road Safety	Hungerford - Zebra crossing review
14	Traffic & Road Safety	Deadmans Lane, Theale - prohibition of motor vehicles - Permanent Traffic Order
15	ITS & Sustainable Travel	B3421 Hambridge Road, Newbury - Toucan Crossing at canal bridge
16	Projects	B4494 Oxford Road, Donnington/Love Lane - Informal crossing, subject to land owner consent
17	Traffic & Road Safety	Lawrences Lane, Thatcham - prohibition of motor vehicles - new TRO and/or alternative measures
19571	Rechargeable Works	
1	Traffic & Road Safety	Access Protection Markings (estimated 10 per year, in response to applications from residents)
2	Traffic & Road Safety	Disabled Parking Bay Markings (estimated 10 per year, in response to applications from residents)
3	Traffic & Road Safety	Third party signs, eg tourist direction signs (estimated 10 per year in response to applications)
4	ITS & Sustainable Travel	Third party damage to Traffic Signals Equipment (estimated 3 per year)
	Traffic Signal Maintenance	
1	ITS & Sustainable Travel	Quarterly Maintenance Charges x 4 and ongoing monitoring of faults and contractor performance
2	ITS & Sustainable Travel	Chargeable Maintenance/Repair (estimated 12 repair and maintenance orders over the year)

Highways Network Management Works Programme 2026-27		
Ref	Type of Activity / Lead Team	Project/Activity/Location
	Road Safety: Speed Management	
1	Traffic & Road Safety	Speed Data Collection: "Black Cat" surveys - average of up to 15 sites per month
2	Traffic & Road Safety	Speed Intervention Programme - inc Community Speed Watch and assistance to Parish/Town Councils
3	Traffic & Road Safety	SID machine loans to Parish Councils - approx. 2-4 per month
4	Traffic & Road Safety	Maintenance and operation of Speed Management online portal
	Road Safety: Events and Campaigns	
1	Traffic & Road Safety	Supporting National Road Safety campaigns, eg Drink Driving, Seatbelts, Mobile Phone
2	Traffic & Road Safety	Targeted road user campaigns, eg Young Drivers, Older Drivers, Motorcyclists, Horse riders
3	Traffic & Road Safety	Maintenance, operation and promotion of School Safety online learning resource
	Road Safety: School Crossing Patrols	
1	Traffic & Road Safety	Ongoing management of the School Crossing Patrol Service
2	Traffic & Road Safety	School Crossing Patrol - Purchase of new equipment for operatives
3	Traffic & Road Safety	School Crossing Patrol - New Site Assessments (approx. 3 new assessments per year)
4	Traffic & Road Safety	School Crossing Patrol - Risk Assessments of existing Sites (approx. 6 assessments per year)
	Road Safety: Cycle training	
1	Traffic & Road Safety	New instructor training sessions, risk assessment of sites and cycle training admin.
2	Traffic & Road Safety	Child Cycle Training - arrange Bikeability courses for approx. 150 children per month via schools
3	Traffic & Road Safety	Adult and Family Cycle Training - arrange public Bikeability courses, as demand requires
4	Traffic & Road Safety	Maintenance and operation of cycle training online portal
	Traffic Regulation Orders for Special Events on the Highway	
1	Traffic & Road Safety	Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 Temporary Orders for events on the highway
2	Traffic & Road Safety	Section 21 of the Police Town Clauses Act 1847 (i.e. Street Parties)
	Licencing	
1	Traffic & Road Safety	Assessment and issuing of pavement licences for tables and chairs on the highway
2	Traffic & Road Safety	Vehicle Operators Licences - check applications and make representations as necessary
3	ITS & Sustainable Travel	Electric Vehicle Cable Channels (estimated 50 per year due to DfT grant to subsidise the cost)
	Assessments, Reports and Feasibility Work	
1	Traffic & Road Safety	Thatcham Park School Highway assessment
2	Projects	B4494 Oxford Road, Donnington/Love Lane - approach land owner re feasibility of informal crossing
3	Traffic & Road Safety	Spurcroft Primary School, Thatcham - development /feasibility of School Streets scheme for 2027-28
4	Traffic & Road Safety	John Rankin Schools, Newbury - safety assessment associated with School access and parking
5	Traffic & Road Safety	Roads surrounding Bucklebury Ford - Weight limit assessment
6	Traffic & Road Safety	Chieveley Primary School - Signing and lining enhancements
7	Projects	Northcroft Park - raised footway and bridge proposal in low section
8	Projects	Church Way, Hungerford - proposed footway improvements
9	Projects	A329 Shooters Hill - footway assessment between Skew Bridge and Beale Park entrance
10	Traffic & Road Safety	A339 Robin Hood to Vodafone lining and signing assessment
11	Traffic & Road Safety	Lower Way traffic volume assessment
12	Traffic & Road Safety	Goring Lane assessment
13	Traffic & Road Safety	Crookham Common Rd assessment signing and lining
14	Traffic & Road Safety	Bury Lane, West Ilsley - Realignment of kerbs at junction and passing points
15	Traffic & Road Safety	High Street, Boxford - Safety review
	High Priority Reactive Work	
1	All teams	Produce reports in response to petitions.
2	All teams	Produce reports in response to Council motions
3	Traffic & Road Safety	Produce reports in response to Home to School Transport Assessment requests
	Day to Day Reactive Work	
1	All teams	Stakeholder correspondence, complaints and Freedom of Information Requests
2	All teams	Responses to stakeholders using the "Report a Problem" web-page