



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 20TH MAY 2014

**SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT BORROWING INITIATIVE BID FOR 2014/15 -
UPDATE (HIGHWAY WORKS)**

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update and seek comment from Scrutiny on the Local Government Borrowing Initiative 2014/15 CCBC bid proposals, prior to its presentation to Cabinet.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report provides an update to members on the proposed funding allocations for works to be undertaken during 2014/15.
- 2.2 Savings have been achieved over the previous two years and additional allocations have been proposed for carriageway and footway resurfacing along with street lighting.
- 2.3 The funding for the identified works will be provided by Welsh Governments (WG), Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI), as previously reported to Scrutiny, Cabinet and Council.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The report links directly to the regeneration of the county borough making Caerphilly County Borough a better place to live and work.
- 3.2 The report links directly to the Council's priority to improve accessibility throughout the county borough by improving the transport network throughout the county borough to enable communities to move around the borough freely.
- 3.3 The report links directly to the Council's priority to ensure that communities are safe, green and clean places to live and to improve residents quality of life by reviewing, renewing and installing energy saving technologies.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Previous reports to Council dated 23 February 2012 and Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny 15 November 2012 details the full background to the Local Government Borrowing Initiative and the Council approved projects.

- 4.2 The reports highlight the priorities identified for Caerphilly County Borough Council's bid for the Welsh Governments (WG), Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI) for 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 which is the three years over which this funding is available.
- 4.3 The funding available to Caerphilly County Borough Council has been circa £2.8 million per year over the identified three years.
- 4.4 An updated projects table is appended and has been submitted to WG for approval (Appendix 1). The 2014/15 bid information previously approved has been updated based on efficiency savings in undertaking the previous works during 2012/13 and 2013/14 along with additional grant funding that has been obtained. The original bid proposal previously approved is included in Appendix 2 for information.
- 4.5 The original programme (Appendix 2) has been fully delivered in 2012/13 and 2013/14. Savings achieved have been carried forward to 2014/15.
- 4.6 The savings achieved have resulted in proposed increased allocations for carriageway resurfacing and footway resurfacing for 2014/15. These have been increased from £1,300,000 to £1,600,000 and £620,000 to £771,586 respectively. A full list of the proposed resurfacing sites are included in Appendix 3.
- 4.7 Due to the level of savings an additional item of work is proposed in relation to a street lighting upgrade and installation of a central management system for the respective upgraded lighting. The proposed allocation is £250,000 and covers upgrading approximately 525no lights.
- 4.8 There are 2625no. 55w low pressure sodium residential lanterns within the Authority that are in excess of 20 years old. The proposal is that 525no. are to be replaced with modern LED lanterns incorporating a Central management system. The proposed street lighting lanterns are to be equipped with state of the art light emitting diodes having a service life of 100,000 hours, equating to 22 years of all night operation before further replacement is required. This improves upon the existing street lighting infrastructure whilst providing positive benefits and assisting with the compliance of current strategies.
- 4.9 The 525 lanterns proposed are to be changed in multiples as complete streets and/or areas. The areas under consideration are in Cefn Fforest, Blackwood, Risca and the Caerphilly basin. These areas being chosen as they are within the transmitter range of the existing central management system base stations.
- 4.10 As this is the final year of LGBI there is a requirement by Welsh Government that the full allocation of funds is spent before the end of March 2015. In order to facilitate any further efficiency savings it is proposed that any underspend is allocated to carriageway and/or footway resurfacing. These schemes need minimal lead in time and there is a readily available prioritised list. It is proposed that a final list is determined by the Head of Engineering Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation. Given the likely end of year timeframes this process would provide an appropriate mechanism to ensure that all the available funding is spent by year end.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 An EqlA screening has been completed in accordance with the Council's Equalities Consultation and Monitoring Guidance and no full EqlA has been carried out, however the projects support a number of the Council's Strategic Equality Objectives (SEO). For example repairs to footpaths help make areas accessible to people with mobility issues (SEO 3 - Physical Access) and improvements to street lighting supports both this SEO and SEO 1 - Tackling Identity Based Hate-Crime by helping with community safety issues.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The borrowing initiative is fully financially supported by Welsh Government as detailed in the previous report to Council on 23 February 2012.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 As identified at end of the report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 It is recommended that members note the report and provide comments on the bid proposal and the works identified in Appendices 1 and 3 before it is presented to Cabinet for approval.
- 9.2 It is proposed that Scrutiny recommend that a final list of any additional carriageway and/or footway resurfacing schemes from highways prioritised lists is determined by the Head of Engineering Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation in order to maximise the available funding should any savings be achieved.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To positively contribute to extending the life of the Council's biggest asset, namely the highway network.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Highways Act 1980.

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Appendices:

- Appendix 1 Proposed CCBC Business Justification Case Projects - LGBI 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15
Appendix 2 Previous Proposed CCBC Business Justification Case Projects – 2012/13
Appendix 3 Carriageway and Footway Resurfacing LGBI Sites 2014/2015