

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **TUESDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2012**

REPORT BY: **DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT**

SUBJECT: **WELSH GOVERNMENT HIGHWAY PRUDENTIAL
BORROWING INITIATIVE**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01 To seek Cabinet approval for the Council's bid to Welsh Government for highway maintenance funding through their Prudential Borrowing initiative for the financial years 2013 – 14 and 2014 -15.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 In January 2012, Welsh Government announced a new initiative to provide additional highway funding to each Council in Wales. The funding is intended to assist, not only with the current repairs needed, but also to address the long standing maintenance backlog and carry out significant highways improvements on the network, should a business case exist which sets out the economic and environmental benefits of the scheme. The additional money is provided through Prudential Borrowing with funding for the future repayments to be provided by Welsh Government. The maintenance element of each Council's bid should be delivered by adherence to the Council's own Highways Asset Management Plan (HAMP). The initiative is intended to provide funding over a three year period
- 2.02 Details of the first year's bid for funding were agreed by the Council's Executive in February 2012 and the bids for Years 2 and 3 of the scheme are required to be submitted to Welsh Government by the end of December 2012.
- 2.03 All of the 2012 -13 schemes identified in the Year 1 bid will be completed by the end of March 2013

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 The Council's HAMP sets out how the Council responds to its statutory duty to maintain the Highway network. It sets out how Asset Management principles will be applied to the management of the individual assets that make up the highway network in Flintshire.

These principles are:-

- A systematic approach to maintenance that takes a long term maintenance view.
- Maximising benefits by balancing competing demands.
- Allocation of resources based on assessed need and a risk based approach to funding allocation.
- Explicit consideration of public expectations.

3.02 The indicative figure of funding available in Years 2 and 3 of the initiative is £2.7m per year. The Risk Assessment/Gap Analysis process detailed in the HAMP defines that the allocation to each asset should be as follows:

HAMP defined Asset	Assessed Risk	Outline proposal	2013/14 (£k)	2014/15 (£k)
Carriageway	Red	Carriageway resurfacing/reconstruction	1,500	1,500
Footways	Red	Footway reconstruction and improved disabled access	400	400
Structures	Red	Bridge/culvert strengthening/replace ment works	0	300
Street Lighting	Red	Replacement of structurally unsound Street lighting columns	350	400
Highway Strategy	Red	Infrastructure improvement	450	100
		TOTAL	£2,700	£2,700

Note. The final bid is subject to scrutiny and approval by Welsh Government which may result in minor reallocation of funding across the assets.

3.03 Subject to Cabinet and Welsh Government approval, detailed works programmes will be developed, based on the recognised Asset Management principles within the HAMP and the resulting schemes will be carried out in the financial year 2013 – 14 and 2014 – 15 respectively. The final detailed works programme will be available on the Council website once it has been finalised.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That Cabinet approve the outline bid for the second and third year of funding from Welsh Government under the Prudential Borrowing initiative as set out in paragraph 3.02 of this report.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 All of the Welsh Government funding must be in addition to any allocated Council maintenance Highway Maintenance budgets.

5.02 In order to gain the maximum benefit from the Welsh Government initiative it is essential that funding is collectively treated with the Council's Capital Programme for the next two years This will provide the most impact in delivering Highways infrastructure improvements.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 Not applicable

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 The HAMP considers the impact of the network on the Environment as one of its primary level of service

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 The desk top assessment concluded that the HAMP process does not discriminate against any particular group

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 The works will be carried out by specialist contractors following a formal Tendering exercise and will be managed by Council employees.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 Advanced notice of individual schemes will be provided to the relevant Member

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 With Cabinet Member

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 None

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Contact Officer: S Jones
Telephone: 01352 704700
Email: Stephen.o.jones@flintshirte.gov.uk