

EXECUTIVE CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

A record of decisions made by the Executive Cabinet Member
with responsibility for Highways and Transport:-

MONDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

Following consideration of the matters detailed below in the
presence of:-

Councillor Haslam	Executive Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
Councillor Hayes	Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Wright	Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Heslop	Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Fletcher	Minor Opposition Spokesperson

OFFICERS

Mr. J. Dyson	Director of Place Services
Mr. J. Kelly	Assistant Director Highways and Engineering
Mr. S. Walsh	Senior Engineering Manager
Mrs. J. Pollard	Head of Finance
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Deputy Democratic Services Manager

9. MONITORING OF DECISIONS

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which provided an
update on decisions that had previously been taken.

The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED the report.

10. HIGHWAYS AND ENGINEERING SAVINGS PROPOSALS, 2021/23

The Director of Place Services submitted a report which set out savings proposals relating to highway winter maintenance and the associated service standards.

By way of background information, the report advised that in February 2021, following consultation, the Council approved further savings options of £37.2m for the 2021-23 period. This report set out the details of proposals for budget and service reductions for Winter Maintenance in response to those financial

challenges. If agreed, the proposals would contribute £257,000 to the overall £1m budget option identified as, 'Review of Highways and Engineering', in the February, 2021 budget report to the Council.

The Executive Cabinet Member was further advised that the Highways and Engineering Service's total operating revenue budget for 2021-22 was £5.6m. Within that budget there were number of externally fixed/corporate charges that were non-controllable by the Service so did not form part of the targeted budget saving. The most significant charges were £2.2m for electrical energy charges (street lighting) and insurance allowances for third party claims (slips/trips/potholes). As such, the residual controllable budget in the Highways and Engineering Service was £3m.

The £1m reduction therefore equated to a 33% saving requirement from the Highways and Engineering Service 'controllable' budget. Applying the same percentage reduction to

the Winter Maintenance budget (2022-23) of £771,000, thus equated to a required savings target of £257, 000. The Council recently approved a new risk-based strategy for the Winter Maintenance Network to provide a systematic structure for revising the extent of network gritting and this would be the policy

reference point for reduced service provision following the proposed budget reduction.

Furthermore, in bringing this proposal forward, it should be noted that the existing Winter Maintenance budget had been established based on a normal winter but the actual cost of providing the service could increase due to a number of uncontrollable factors.

As a consequence of the savings options proposed in the February, 2021 budget report, the Winter Service Budget was proposed to be reduced by £257,000. This effectively meant that the Council would need to reduce its treatment regime to the very high-risk category- the resilient network only.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED the proposed reduction in winter maintenance budget provision and corresponding service delivery arrangements, as outlined in the report.

11. HIGHWAYS CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23

The Director of Place Services submitted a report which presented the outturn for the 2021/22 Highways Capital Programme and set out the forward programme for 2022/23. The report also included a proposal to join a local government procurement framework for specialist highways services providers.

The report also advised that Bolton Council were active members of the Local Council Roads Innovation Group (LCRIG). Blackpool Council, as founding members had developed a Framework Contract for SME Specialist Highway Contractors to deliver works for any LCRIG members. The framework provided participating authorities with a number of advantages, in respect of procuring irregular specific types of works and it was therefore proposed that Bolton Council utilised this where appropriate.

The detailed Capital Programme for 2022/23 (for the significant blocks), was set out in Appendices A to C and included the funding carried forward from 2021/22. Other ongoing, or new programmes, were updated or noted in the report.

The Executive Cabinet Member AGREED to-

- (i) Note the outturn of the 2021/22 Highways Capital Programme.**
- (ii) Note and approve the adjustments to the forward Highways Capital Programme from 2022/23.**
- (iii) Authorise the Director of Place Services in conjunction with the Borough Solicitor to utilise the Project Amber Framework for specialist highway construction services, as detailed in the report.**