

Report of the Director of Environment ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 26th SEPTEMBER 2016 ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY (INVESTMENT PROGRAMME)		
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The County Council employs many measures to prevent road traffic casualties including education, publicity campaigns, training, traffic management and other road safety initiatives as well as the construction of a number of road safety improvement schemes each year. The overall strategy is outlined in the Carmarthenshire County Council Local Transport Plan.

These measures are funded from a variety of sources including both capital and revenue grants and other funds which are summarised as follows with further details being included in Table 1 at the end of the report.

Local Transport Plan / Local Transport Fund

The South West Wales Integrated Transport Consortium (SWWITCH) was formally dissolved in early 2014 and Welsh Government required local authorities to prepare a Local Transport Plan. The four West Wales local authorities agreed to continue a collaborative approach which is linked to the evolving Swansea Bay City Region. The priorities within the Carmarthenshire County Council Local Transport Plan (LTP) were approved in early 2015 and the formal document has now been published.

Funding which was previously allocated to the Regional Consortium is now allocated to the individual local authorities on a competitive basis and bids for the new Local Transport Fund (LTF) are submitted to Welsh Government on an annual basis. All Wales funding is limited and each annual bid is now limited to a maximum of three projects, one of which must be linked to the provision of walking and cycling related initiatives as a result of the now enacted Active Travel (Wales) Act.

Safe Routes in the Community

The Safe Routes in the Community (SRitC) grant provides direct funding from the Welsh Government for the County Council to deliver projects that improve accessibility and safety, and encourage walking and cycling within communities. The aim of the Safe Routes in the Communities programme is to change how people travel, resulting in greater social inclusion and improved community safety.

Safe Routes in the Communities funds capital works such as: -

- crossings
- traffic calming measures
- cyclepaths
- footpaths
- secure cycle facilities (including stands and CCTV), lockers and changing facilities.

Safe Routes in Communities is a grant programme whereby the County Council must bid for funding on an annual basis. The Welsh Government has advised that only schemes included in a schedule of works to upgrade safe walking routes to schools included in a response to the Minister in the summer of 2014 would be considered. Again a maximum of three projects are to be included in any bid and for the current 2016-17 financial bids for works in the Glanamman and Whitland areas have been accepted.

Active Travel Act and Local Authority Obligations

The Active Travel (Wales) Act makes provision for a number of items including the development of approved maps of existing active travel routes, the promotion of active travel journeys and to enhance the provision made for walkers and cyclists among others.

A number of key obligations have been passed to Local Authorities to implement, including the mapping of routes, the need to have regard for the active travel route network in the development of transport policies, the promotion of active travel journeys and to enhance the provision made for walkers and cyclists.

A small amount of grant funding has been made available by Welsh Government for some of the mapping work but the full impact of these obligations is still being assessed.

One of the obligations from Welsh Government required all Local Authorities to submit details of all walking and cycling routes for inclusion in all Wales database of such routes. These details included an audit of all routes and Carmarthenshire County Council were one of only five Local Authorities that fully complied with the requirements.

Road Safety Improvement and Footway Improvement Programme

At its meeting on the 14th November 2011 the Executive Board approved the criteria for assessment, selection and prioritisation of Road Safety Improvement and Footway Improvements to be funded from the Council's capital budget allocation for such works. A new 3 year rolling programme was developed and implemented from 2013-14. The prioritised programme is subject to an annual review to allow for new requests to be

assessed and to re-assess locations where circumstances are known to have changed since the last prioritisation assessment.

The 2016-17 Road Safety and Footway Improvement Programme is fully committed at present.

Local Government Borrowing Initiative

The Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI) was an initiative, where the Welsh Government committed revenue support to the County Council, to enable the Council to undertake borrowing for new transport infrastructure (so called functionality improvements) as part of a wider programme of maintenance related projects. A sum of £2 million was allocated to deliver a programme of these functionality schemes to improve road junctions, to provide new and improved footways and other minor highway construction work, over the 2 year period from 2013-14 to 2014-15.

A total of 46 No. schemes have been successfully implemented using LGBI funding. However there remain in excess of 300 No. requests for road safety, footway and other infrastructure improvements and clearly with the limited resources available from capital funding, it will be unrealistic to expect a large number of schemes to be delivered in any particular financial year.

It is proposed therefore to modify the priority methodology to ensure that Interventions are prioritised and assessed to maximise a return on investment by improving road safety and where is a sound evidence base to support any intervention proposed. These revised criteria are currently being developed for Executive Board approval.

Local Road Safety Grant (Engineering)

The Local Road Safety Grant was introduced in 2000. The Local Road Safety Grant provides direct funding from the Welsh Government for the County Council to provide engineering solutions to road safety problems on the county road network. The County Council prioritises the selection of road safety engineering projects on the basis of historic casualty statistics along rural routes and at urban cluster sites. The Council assesses the casualty reduction performance of the each scheme delivered using the grant. There is a strong partnering approach to all initiatives funded from this grant through groups such as the Carmarthenshire Speed Limit Working Group with bodies such as Dyfed Powys Police and GoSafe.

The County Council must bid to the Welsh Government for funding on an annual basis.

The proposed programme of road safety engineering works to be delivered using the road safety grant is shown in Table 1 at the end of the report.

Traffic Management and Accident Prevention Programme

The following traffic and accident prevention elements are provided on the county road network using the Councils revenue budget allocation for such works: -

- Traffic orders for speed limits, one way working, weight restrictions, width restrictions, buses only, no entry order, no motor vehicles order, disabled persons parking bays, waiting restrictions, residents parking zones.
- Traffic calming elements, road humps, narrowing's and chicanes, gateway and entry treatments, vehicle activated message signs, speed limit roundel markings, coloured surfaces, surface texture – skid resistant material,
- Hatched road markings, countdown signs, bollards, disabled parking bays

The proposed programme of traffic management and accident prevention projects to be delivered using the revenue funding is shown in Table 1 at the end of the report.

Recommendation:

Scrutiny Members are asked to note the content of this report

TABLE 1

**SUMMARY OF FUNDING FOR ROAD SAFETY RELATED AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE
SCHEMES FOR 2016-17**

PROJECT	COMMENTS	2016/17 BUDGET
Murray St MSCP	Annual capital maintenance linked to Whole Life Plan	£50k
Road Safety Improvement Programme		£250k
Pibwrlwyd - Cwmffrwd Phase 3	Completion of work commenced in 2015/16	
C2134 Tycroes	Design only – potential s.106 contributions	
B4303 Swiss Valley - Llethri Road	Construction of Shared Use Facility	
B4306 Hendy	Potential s.106 contributions	
Bronwydd	Design only	
Safe Routes in the Community / Schools -		
Glanamman	Funded by WG Grant	£180k
Whitland	Funded by WG Grant	£197.5k
Active Travel Projects	Funded by WG Local Transport Fund Grant	£706.6k
Amman Valley Cycleway	Completion of remaining length, signing and marketing	
Urban Connections		
Llanllwch - Alltynap SUF	Design only	
A4138 Llangennech - Dafen	Completion of work commenced in 2015/16	

PROJECT	COMMENTS	2016/17 BUDGET
Llangennech - Bynea	Design only	
Carmarthen Branded Routes - Glangwili Hospital	Design and site clearance	
Carmarthen Branded Routes - Trinity St Davids	Completion of work commenced in 2015/16 to link S4C and Carmarthen Western Link Road	
Pinged / Pembrey Canal	Completion of work commenced in 2015/16 – funded by Big Lottery / SUSTRANS	
Towy Valley Cycleway – Abergwili to Nantgaredig	Design and construction of initial phase (s)	
Towy Valley Project – Nantgaredig to Ffairfach	Design only	
School Transport Routes	Prioritised routes to reduce revenue costs	
Active Travel Mapping	As required by WG	
Ammanford Economic Regeneration Highway Infrastructure – Wind Street / Tiryddail Lane Junction	Design and land acquisition – funded by WG Local Transport Fund grant	£500k
Cross Hands Economic Link Road Phase 2	Design and land acquisition - funded by WG Local Transport Fund grant	£946.4k
Traffic Management Schemes (funded by Road Safety Grant)		£441.9k
PROJECT	COMMENTS	2016/17 BUDGET

A484 Carmarthen to Cenarth	Route treatment works – funded by WG grant	
A4214 / B4304 Llanelli	Route treatment works – funded by WG grant	
Traffic Management Schemes - Miscellaneous		
Trimsaran - Traffic Calming	Further phase	
Llanpumsaint Village Phase 1 - Traffic Calming	Construction in 2016/17	
Meidrim Village Phase 1 - Traffic Calming	Construction in 2016/17	
A4138 Talycoed - junction feasibility study		
B4297 / Capel Hendre Square - junction feasibility study		
A474 The Raven - Traffic Calming		
George Street Llanelli		
	OVERALL TOTAL 2016/17 BUDGET	£3,272.4k