

**AGENDA ITEM 4****RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL****CABINET****16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015****HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORTATION AND STRATEGIC PROJECTS –  
SUPPLEMENTARY CAPITAL PROGRAMME****REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND FRONTLINE SERVICES****Author: Roger Waters, Service Director Highways and Streetcare Services.  
Tel 01443 494702****1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

Further to the approval of the Council's Three Year Capital Programme 2015/16 - 2017/18 by Council on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015, this report seeks approval for the detailed capital programme for Highways and Streetcare Services. This further report is required to take into account the allocation of funding provided by the authority for the Highways Investment Programme, approvals from Welsh Government and the non highways element of the Capital Programme.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note and approve the Supplementary Capital Programme for Highways Transportation and Strategic Projects as detailed within this report.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 As per the financial year 2014/15, in order to provide the necessary detail for consideration by Cabinet this supplementary paper is submitted providing the detail of the remaining programme for the following areas:

- Highways Investment
- Land Drainage Improvements
- Land Reclamation
- Traffic
- Car Parks
- Developer Funded Infrastructure

The Council has been invited to submit bids for Welsh Government Grants related to:

- Road Safety
- Safe Routes in the Community
- Transport Grant

- Local Transport Fund
- Metro

#### 4. **SUPPLEMENTARY CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

##### 4.1 **Highways Improvements**

The Highways Network represents the most significant asset of the Council, valued in excess of £2bn and comprised of carriageways, footways, structures (bridges, retaining walls, culverts, etc.), street lighting, traffic signs, safety barriers, street lighting, highway drainage, etc.

Carriageways: The 2014/15 carriageway resurfacing programme has been successfully completed with the exception of 3 schemes with a value of £0.236M which have been deferred into 2015/16:

- Surface treatment of Pontypridd Inner Relief Road could not be resurfaced while the works at Victoria Bridge were ongoing due to a clash in traffic management requirements.
- Napier Street Mountain Ash could not be completed due to a clash with proposed utility works.
- Upper Boat Roundabout to Tesco resurfacing was deferred for delivery with the signalisation of Upper Boat Roundabout in summer 2015 in order to reduce costs and disruption.

These deferred schemes will be completed during 2015/16 in a carriageway programme totalling £1.511M. Since the Council report of the 25<sup>th</sup> March the programme has been reviewed to include additional schemes to the value of £0.190M. This increase is funded from the Essential Highway Improvement repairs budget.

Footways are considered to be a high risk to the Council and it is proposed to allocate £0.416M to repairs which have been identified by inspectors or through specialist condition surveys.

Structures: There are significant challenges associated with maintaining highway structures.

The bridge expansion joints on the A472 bridge at Fiddler's Elbow, which is jointly owned with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, have failed and need to be replaced as soon as possible. There are 8 very large complex joints on this structure and it is estimated that these works will cost £1M which will be split equally between Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Councils.

Rhiwsaeson Bridge has been closed since March 2014 as it has been assessed as weak and unsafe. It is estimated that replacement costs are of the order of £250k. This bridge is on the main access to a Dwr Cymru waste water facility and in order to progress repairs to the bridge, Dwr Cwmru have agreed to contribute £125k towards the works on condition that it is progressed in summer 2015. The remaining £125k is to be funded within this programme.

The Royal Oak Bridge, which crosses over the A4059 at Abercynon, was found to have cracked / spalled concrete to the bridge soffit with the potential for sections of concrete to fall from the structure onto the road or traffic below. The loose concrete has been removed to protect road users below, but urgent repairs are now required to prevent rapid deterioration of the structure leading to greatly increased works costs.

A principal inspection of the Upper Boat Bridge, which is a crucial link between the Church Village Bypass and the A470, has revealed that the joints and bearings require urgent replacement, together with some concrete and corrosion repairs and waterproofing of the bridge deck. Due to the necessity of working in the river, these works can only be carried out between May and October and are proposed to be incorporated in the proposed scheme to signalise the Upper Boat interchange, in order to reduce traffic management costs and traffic disruption on this very busy interchange.

In addition it has been identified that concrete was falling from the soffit of Aberaman Bridge onto the footway below. The footway has been closed as a safety measure, and a principal inspection, concrete testing and removal of loose concrete to fully assess the extents of the repair works required has been commissioned. Major repair works will be required and Farm Road will need to be closed. Farm Road serves as the only access to a number of business and residential properties, therefore it will be necessary to construct an alternative access route via Aberaman Industrial Estate.

Ongoing inspection, assessment and design is underway on the 5 structures listed above and at this stage fully detailed estimates are not available. It is likely that there will need to be redistribution of funds between schemes within the structures programme as design work progresses.

Highway Drainage; An allocation of £0.181M for major drainage schemes has been identified to reduce the risk of standing water on the highway. £0.145M of this funding has been allocated to schemes as detailed in Appendix 1, with £0.036M held in reserve for schemes to be determined.

Highways Accessibility; Improvements to access facilities for disabled highway users have in previous years been concentrated on larger scale works to improve accessibility in town centres. There is little more that is now required in these locations and the emphasis of the works will shift towards improvements identified and requested by disabled highway users. The proposed £0.010M programme is likely to comprise small scale works at 5 to 10 locations yet to be identified.

The proposed allocation of Highways Improvement funding against schemes is now set out in detail at appendix 1. In summary the £4.536M of funding is allocated as follows:

- Carriageway Resurfacing Programme - £1.511M
- Footways - £0.416M
- Structures - £1.920M
- Streetlighting - £0.250M
- Safety fencing - £0.080M

- Drainage works – £0.181M
- Essential Highway Improvement repairs - £0.168M
- Highway Accessibility Improvements - £0.010M

#### 4.2 Land Drainage Improvements

The Capital Land Drainage Programme supports works on land drainage and flood alleviation schemes, which are of such scale that their cost, places them outside the framework of routine maintenance, supported by the revenue programme.

With regard to land drainage (Flood Alleviation) schemes, the Council is frequently able to benefit from Welsh Government (WG) grant support (85%) as the Land Drainage Authority under Section 59 of the Land Drainage Act 1991. In support of this process the land drainage capital programme identifies a number of project appraisals targeted at attracting external funding support. These appraisals will be carried out on a rolling 3-year programme with 2-3 completed per year.

Progression of schemes will be dependent on successful application for grant following the project appraisal process and on occasion attracting other third party contributions. An allowance has been made within the drainage improvements programme for progression of such schemes in order to provide the required match funding.

In addition, the development of the Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) under the Flood Risk Regulations will require areas of risk mapping to be undertaken to carry out further scheme development. It is a requirement of the regulations that the FRMP is to be delivered by Dec 2015 and therefore allowances have been made in the programme for actions arising from the FRMP.

In addition the Mynydd yr Eglwys landslip continues to require ongoing monitoring by specialist geotechnical engineers.

The details for the Drainage Improvements Programme for 2015/16 of £0.615M are provided in Appendix 2.

#### 4.3 Traffic Management

As part of its network management duties under the Traffic Management Act and the Highways Act the Council has the ability to implement improvements to the management of traffic within the County Borough. Finance for the programme is provided by an allocation of core capital funding from RCTCBC of £0.165M.

The Council's capital allocation will enable the implementation of small scale schemes and provide safety aids such as warning signs, the introduction of traffic orders and the provision of residents parking. Details of the 2015/16 Capital Programme are included in Appendix 3.

#### 4.4 **Car Parks**

A capital allocation of £0.045M is contained within the programme for investment in our car parking estate.

#### 4.5 **Land Reclamation**

Work on land reclamation continues to be low with 100% grant funding secured for the final works at Albion Lower Tip Stability scheme (£0.90M) and Coedely Monitoring (£0.25M) for 2015/16.

#### 4.6 **Developer Funded Infrastructure**

Capital Investment in the transportation network to mitigate the transport impacts of new developments is secured from developers via S106 agreements. The Council has been securing funding under the Transport Tariff. It is proposed to also undertake detailed design and site clearance for major improvements to the A4119/A473 Roundabout improvement at Talbot Green in 2015/16 with delivery of the project in 2016/17 prior to the opening of any retail developments associated with the new town centre. The estimated value of the project is of the order of £2.5M.

### 5. **EXTERNAL GRANTS**

The Welsh Government invites a series of applications for annual grants. At the present time no confirmation of funding has been forthcoming. The bids are summarised below.

#### 5.1 **Road Safety Capital**

Applications for grant funding have been submitted to the Welsh Government for Road Safety Grant (Capital) for the following projects in 2015/16 with the following prioritisation:

1. Nant y Gwyddon Road, Gelli	£0.175M
2. Minor Scheme Package	£0.161M
3. Beddau Halt, Beddau	£0.480M

It should be noted that the Council promotes road safety education and training and has submitted a bid to the Welsh Government for £0.129M to deliver Kerbcraft, Pass Plus Cymru, cycle training, Mega Drive, mature drivers courses and training for motorcyclists.

#### 5.2 **Transport Grant**

This is a legacy tranche of funding to deal with completed major highways projects across Wales. A bid has been submitted for Transport Grant funding to continue land negotiations and to settle Part 1 claims under the Land Compensation Act 1973:

- Church Village Bypass £0.448M

### 5.3 Safe Routes in Communities

An application for grant funding has been submitted to the Welsh Government for the following Safe routes in the Communities projects for 2015/16:

- Maerdy SRiC £0.247M
- Bryncelynog, Beddau SRiC (Phase 1) £0.384M

### 5.4 Local Transport Fund

WG have introduced the Local Transport Fund to replace the Regional Transport Grant. Applications for grant funding have been submitted to the Welsh Government for the following projects for 2015/16:

- Cynon Gateway South (Mt Ash Cross Valley) £0.125M
- A4119 Corridor £0.125M (net)
- Strategic Bus Corridor Infra (Rhondda Fawr) £0.401M (net)

### 5.5 Metro

Welsh Government has allocated £62M of funding for expenditure by the end of March 2016 for development and delivery of Metro Phase 1. The schemes below are identified for delivery by RCT as part of the Phase 1 programme. RCT has been progressing design and development of these projects during 2014/15. The funding is stage gated and, subject to approvals, it is anticipated that funding will be available for the delivery of the following projects during 2015/16:

- Upper Boat A470 Gyratory improvements – Phase 2 £1.990M
- Sardis Road Gyratory Improvements £0.691M
- Porth Park & Ride (Rail) £1.341M

The successful implementation of the schemes will be dependent upon the resolution of a number of matters including the granting of all necessary consents and approvals.

The Council has secured £0.100M grant to further investigate the potential of developing light rail passenger services between Pontyclun and Cardiff via Llantrisant and Talbot Green.

## 6. CONCLUSION

6.1 The above programme identifies continued significant investment in our infrastructure and is accordingly recommended for Cabinet approval. The Highways and Streetcare Service will oversee significant investment in 2015/16 in a number of important areas.

6.2 Following on from the last three years of the highly successful highways investment programme, our Highways Infrastructure network will benefit in

2015/16 with £4.536M of funding. This investment will continue to improve and protect the fabric of the highways network and to deal with the impact of winter.

- 6.3 The Welsh Government LGBI programme concluded in 2014/15 and combined with core capital resources totalled an unprecedented £30M investment programme over 4 years. This has enabled significant improvement in the condition of the highway network with highway condition performance indicators improving as shown below.

Indicator	2010/11 Indicator	2014/15 Indicator
THS011a – percentage of A class roads requiring maintenance	16.2%	8.0%
THS011a – percentage of B class roads requiring maintenance	15.2%	6.4%
THS011a – percentage of C class roads requiring maintenance	15.3%	13.3%
THS011a – percentage of all classified roads requiring maintenance	15.7%	9.3%

The Council faces significant challenges in maintaining this enormous and complex asset. The indicators above are directly impacted by the levels of funding available to maintain the asset. Whilst there is clearly a level of funding required to maintain a steady state, reducing funding below an optimum level creates greater challenges for the future.

- 6.4 The Council has to date been very successful in obtaining funding for transportation projects via Sewta and will continue to work hard with WG under the new arrangements to deliver the best possible transportation outcomes for RCTCBC. At the present time £100k funding has been confirmed for the Metro Light Rail project but no other grant approvals have been received to date.
- 6.5 The programme is as always subject to minor changes due to possible engineering difficulties or programming and coordination issues with statutory undertakers.





**Appendix 1****Proposed Carriageway Capital Programme 2015/16**

Street	Street Name	Town	Treatment	Budget
	Henry Street	Aberaman	Surface Treatment	£3,168.00
	Mildred Street	Beddau	Surface Treatment	£6,000.00
B4595	Llantrisant Rd (Beddau Sq to School)	Beddau	Inlay	£70,500.00
	Brynnau Gwynion Estate	Brynnau	Inlay	£12,000.00
C116	Llanharry Road	Brynsadler	Surface Treatment	£84,966.00
	William St	Cilfynydd	Surface Treatment	£11,508.00
	Sunnybank	Clydach Vale	Inlay	£22,500.00
	Fairfield Close	Cwmbach	Strengthen	£19,375.43
A4233	Dyffryn St	Ferndale	Inlay/Strengthen	£89,450.00
	Woodland Terrace	Godreaman	Strengthen	£25,850.00
A4093	Hendreforgan to Cambrian Avenue	Hendreforgan	Surface Treatment	£26,600.00
	Caswell Close	Hirwaun	Surface Treatment	£9,000.00
A473	Bridgend Road	Llanharan	Inlay	£27,000.00
	Road to Kennels	Llanharry	Drainage	£30,000.00
A4119	Buy As you View R/A to Mint R/A	Llantrisant	Surface Treatment	£23,000.00
	Springfield Rd - Mona Place	Maerdy	Strengthen	£47,500.00
C087	School Road and Hensol Rd	Miskin	Surface Treatment	£30,756.00
C220	Dyffryn Road	Mountain Ash East	Surface Treatment	£21,000.00
	Cadwaladr Street	Mountain Ash	Strengthen	£3,470.07
	Albany Street	Penrhiwceiber	Strengthen	£26,875.00
	Abercwmboi Isaf (Boi Close Hill)	Mountain Ash	Overlay	£22,000.00
A468	Nantgarw Hill	Nantgarw	Surface Treatment	£71,551.00
	Church Road	Penderyn	Overlay	£20,000.00
B4223	Mini Roundabout, Church Road	Pentre	Inlay	£25,000.00
	Windsor Street	Pentre	Strengthen	£35,125.00
	Awelfryn	Penywaun	Strengthen	£13,337.50
C181	Heol Pendarren	Rhigos	Strengthen	£7,500.00
A4054	Glyntaff to Rhydyfelin	Rhydyfelin	Surface Treatment	£77,000.00
	Ilan Avenue	Rhydyfelin	Inlay	£27,000.00
	Ffordd Gerdinan	Tonteg	Surface Treatment	£11,898.00
	Oakfield Crescent	Tonteg	Inlay	£24,000.00
A4058	Princess Louise Road	Tonypandy	Inlay	£8,000.00
	Miskin Road to Rhys Street	Trealaw	Surface Treatment	£13,200.00
A4054	A470 Gyratory	Treforest	Strengthen	£69,245.00
B4512	Penrhys Road (bottom section)	Tylorstown	Inlay	£22,000.00
A4054	Upper Boat Roundabout	Upper Boat	Inlay / Strengthen	£150,000.00
A4119	Williamstown R/A	Williamstown	Inlay	£27,300.00
A4119	Dinas Isaf R/A	Williamstown	Inlay	£32,500.00
	Gynor Avenue to Aldergrove Rd	Ynysgir	Inlay	£14,850.00
	Old Parish Road	Ynysybwl	overlay	£12,975.00
				<b>£1,275,000.00</b>

**Previously Approved Carriageway Schemes Deferred from 2014/15**

	Street Name	Town	Treatment	Est
	Napier Street	Mountain Ash	Surface Treatment	£12,000.00
A4054	Pontypridd Inner Relief Road	Pontypridd	Surface Treatment	£155,000.00
	Upper Boat Roundabout to Tesco	Upper Boat	Strengthen	£69,000.00
				<b>£236,000.00</b>

**Proposed Capital Footway Programme 2015/16**

Street	Town	Budget
Station Road	Abercynon	£10,000.00
North Street	Abercynon	£28,000.00
Dean Street	Aberdare	£36,960.00
Bridge Street to Abernant Road	Robertstown	£13,000.00
Heol Seward to Heol Caerlan	Beddau	£14,300.00
Bro Deg	Cwmbach	£31,610.00
Argyle Street	Cymmer	£24,200.00
Ynysybwll Road	Glyncoch	£5,967.00
Chapel Road	Llanharan	£33,000.00
Penywaun	Efail Isaf	£21,112.00
Nantgwyddon Road	Llwynypia	£20,300.00
Wilson Place	Maerdy	£34,100.00
Aberffrwd Road	Mountain Ash	£7,451.00
Aldergrove Road	Porth	£5,500.00
Davies Street	Tonypandy	£5,000.00
Penrhiwfer road	Penrhiwfer	£5,800.00
Alma St	Tynewydd	£15,400.00
Bute Street	Treorchy	£35,700.00
Furnace Road	Pontygwaith	£39,600.00
Nantgwyddon Rd (Gelli Tce)	Gelli	£29,000.00
		<b>£416,000.00</b>

















