



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**4<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

**FRONTLINE SERVICES; HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORTATION AND STRATEGIC  
PROJECTS SUPPLEMENTARY CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22**

**REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, PROSPERITY, DEVELOPMENT &  
FRONTLINE SERVICES**

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**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 Further to the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021 Cabinet approval of an additional £1.5M of capital funding for highway maintenance in 2021/22, and subject to positive consideration by Council on 29<sup>th</sup> September; this report sets out the detailed capital programme for the additional funding allocated to maintaining our highways and transportation network.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note and approve the Supplementary Capital Programme for Highways, Transportation and Strategic Projects as detailed within this report.
- 2.2 Note that the current allocations are part of a 3-year capital programme and delegate authority to the Group Director, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Director of Finance and Digital Services, to extend activity to deliver additional projects during the financial year where capacity exists for accelerated delivery in accordance with the purpose of the wider programme, or to suspend programmes/projects and reallocate funding to optimise delivery.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 This report has been developed to identify commitments for the additional £1.5m RCT capital funding. The programme is impacted by a number of external factors that cannot be fully assessed at this time and this relates to both physical issues and funding.
- 3.2 COVID19 and Brexit will continue to impact on our ability to deliver projects and programmes. Construction activity has continued to be sanctioned by

Government and has evolved and adapted in the face of social distancing challenges. Supply chain issues and workforce availability are unpredictable. Despite these challenges, good progress has been made through 2021/22.

- 3.3 Projects will again be reviewed on a case-by-case basis around deliverability and risk; flexibility to suspend individual projects and commit resources to other projects within a programme will be key.
- 3.4 The 2021/22 programme included significant flexibility to switch resources and this has enabled the Council to continue to deliver significant infrastructure improvements against the backdrop of uncertainty. Continued flexibility within the envelope of pre-approved schemes enables resources to be re-aligned to maximise opportunities to deliver projects and draw down grants in the best interests of RCT.

This report considers the detail against the specific £1.5M capital allocations of in favour of Highways Technical Services to maintain the highways and transportation network. This investment will continue to assist the Council to safeguard the long-term integrity of the highways and transportation network and to enhance the network to deal with travel demands.

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

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

- 4.1.1 The Highways Network represents the most significant asset of the Council, valued in excess of £3.4Bn and comprises of carriageways, footways, structures (bridges, retaining walls, culverts, etc.), street lighting, traffic signals and signs, safety barriers, highway drainage, etc.
- 4.1.2 The network has now benefitted from ten years of enhanced levels of investment and this critically important additional funding will continue into 2022/23, improving and protecting the fabric of the highways network and dealing with the impact of winter weather conditions.
- 4.1.3 **Carriageways;** A pool of schemes has been previously approved and a further £1.304M proposed schemes to be added to this pool are listed in Appendix 1. The actual schemes to be implemented in 2021/22 will be drawn from the approved pool based on officer prioritisation and deliverability constraints. These identified schemes will be supplemented by £0.100M to carry out drainage improvements to be identified by officers throughout the period.
- 4.1.4 **Footways;** A pool of schemes has been previously approved and a further £0.096M proposed schemes to be added to this pool are listed in Appendix 1. The actual schemes to be implemented in 2021/22 will be drawn from this pool based on officer prioritisation and deliverability constraints.

#### **5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Equality and Diversity issues will be considered as part of determining the final detail of the proposed schemes.

## **6. CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 There are no consultation requirements relating directly to the report but the proposed schemes will (or have) involve varying degrees of consultation, some of which will relate to statutory processes (such as Traffic Regulation Orders).

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The funding allocation to support schemes contained within this report was approved by Cabinet on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021. Council will consider this funding allocation on 29<sup>th</sup> September. Subject to approval by Council, this report will be considered by Cabinet on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021. At the time of writing and publishing this report, the outcome of Council in confirming this allocation of funding is not known.

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 There are no legal implications as a result of the recommendations set out in this report.

## **9. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.**

- 9.1 This investment programme supports the Council's Corporate Plan Priority 'Places – Where people are proud to live, work and play'.
- 9.2 The programme deals with the maintenance of highways and transportation assets in order to meet travel demand for the benefit of residents, businesses and visitors to RCT.
- 9.3 The programme also seeks to reduce flood risk and insulate communities from the damaging impacts of climate change and more frequent extreme weather events.
- 9.4 The programme supports the Well-Being goals fostering prosperity and resilience with inclusive and sustainable transport options benefitting from improvements to the fabric of the transportation network, which in turn supports more cohesive and vibrant communities.

## **10. CONCLUSION**

- 10.1 The above programme continues the enhanced levels of investment under the RCTInvest initiative, delivering sustained improvements to the resilience and

durability of our highways and transportation infrastructure, promoting sustainable transport opportunities and network efficiency.

- 10.2 Consequently, Frontline Services will coordinate and deliver significant investment in a number of important areas during 2021/22 and the proposed programme is accordingly recommended for approval.
- 10.3 RCT is one of the few Councils that has continues to make meaningful and significant investments in its highway network. The table below demonstrates the level of progress that has been made.

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>2010/11 Indicator</b>	<b>2020/21 Indicator</b>
THS011a – percentage of A class roads requiring maintenance	16.2%	4.6%
THS011b – percentage of B class roads requiring maintenance	15.2%	6.0%
THS011c – percentage of C class roads requiring maintenance	15.3%	3.4%
THS012 – percentage of all classified roads requiring maintenance	15.7%	4.7%

- 10.4 The Council, in common with all LAs across the UK faces significant challenges in maintaining this enormous and complex asset. It is encouraging that WG has recognised these challenges and continued to support the Local Government Public Highways Refurbishment Grant across Wales. 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 in maintaining asset condition in a steady state, reducing funding below an optimum level creates greater challenges for the future. The ongoing level of investment respects that principle and should continue to see the highway network in RCT improving in comparison with other local authorities.

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## **Appendix 1**

### **Additional schemes for Inclusion in Carriageway Works Pool**

<b>Street Name</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Treatment</b>	<b>Budget (£)</b>
Tregwylm	Cwmbach	Traditional	48,000
Llwydcoed Hill	Llwydcoed	Traditional	25,000
Arfryn	Penywaun	Traditional	43,000
Corbett Street	Treherbert	Traditional	26,000
Troedyrhiw Terrace	Treorchy	Traditional	18,000
Moyle Trip Terrace	Pentre	Traditional	33,000
Rhys Street	Trealaw	Traditional	45,000
James St	Penygraig	Traditional	19,000
Main Road	Clydach Vale	Traditional	43,000
Wern Street	Clydach Vale	Traditional	24,000
Smilog Lane	Talbot Green	Traditional	32,000
Brynna Road	Brynna	Traditional	46,000
New Road A473	Llanharan	Traditional	28,000
Heol y Mynach	Ynysybwll	Traditional	48,000
Ynysmaerdy R/A and link	Ynysmaerdy	Traditional	15,000
Fair View	Gilfach Goch	Traditional	61,000
A4119 Junction Gelli Road	Tonypandy	Traditional	39,000
Greenfield Avenue	Glyncoch	Traditional	33,000
Brynteg Lane	Beddau	Traditional	33,000
Crown Terrace	Ynyswen	Traditional	22,000
Egypt Street	Trealaw	Traditional	32,000
Brook Street	Cymmer	Traditional	33,000
Avondale Court	Cymmer	Traditional	31,000
Glasfryn	Cwmdare	Traditional	43,000
Tudor Terrace	Trecynon	Traditional	38,000
Dumfries Street	Aberdare	Traditional	44,000
Morgan Row	Cwmbach	Traditional	13,000
Aberffrwyd Road	Mountain Ash	Traditional	17,000
Campbell Terrace	Mountain Ash	Traditional	15,000
Park St	Abercynon	Traditional	21,000
Aberdare Road	Abercynon	Traditional	32,000
William St	Abercynon	Traditional	23,000
New St	Abercynon	Traditional	17,000
Cross Street	Cilfynydd	Traditional	38,000
Thurston Road	Trallwn	Traditional	36,000
Bryn Eirw	Trehafod	Traditional	17,000
Park St	Treforest	Traditional	17,000
Maes yr Awel	Rhydyfelin	Traditional	24,000

<b>Street Name</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Treatment</b>	<b>Budget (£)</b>
Brynfab Road	Rhydyfelin	Traditional	22,000
King St	Taffs Well	Traditional	21,000
Castle St	Taffs Well	Traditional	14,000
Fairmound Place	Tonteg	Traditional	23,000
Miskin Estate R/A's	Pontyclun	Traditional	36,000
Rhondda Terrace	Ferndale	Traditional	16,000
Emergency Repairs	various	As appropriate	50,000
Drainage improvements	various	Drainage works	50,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,404,000</b>

**Additional schemes for Inclusion in Footway Works Pool**

<b>Street Name</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Treatment</b>	<b>Budget (£)</b>
Tregwilym	Cwmbach	Footway Renewal	31,000
Penderyn	Penderyn	Footway Renewal	15,000
Gilfach Goch Access	Gilfach Goch	Footway Renewal	15,000
Heath Terrace	Ynyshir	Footway Renewal	35,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>96,000</b>