



Oldham
Council

Report to OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Transport Capital Programme: Overview and Update

Portfolio Holder:

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Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Overview and Scrutiny with an overview and an update on Oldham Council's transport capital programme.

Executive Summary

The 3-year transport capital programme was approved by full Council in February 2019 as part of the Council's wider Capital Strategy and Capital Programme 2019/20 to 2023/24. It is funded from a range of different sources, which are detailed in the report, and has a current value of approximately £37.5 million. The programme is subject to ongoing monitoring and review, which results in its overall value and the profiling of scheme budgets across the 3-year period being updated regularly to reflect changes in priorities and additional funding secured. The programme is broken down into several sub-programmes that tend to reflect the different funding streams that make up the programme. This report presents an overview of each of the following sub-programmes:

- 1) Highway maintenance (carriageways and footways);
- 2) Bridges and structures (road bridges, footbridges, retaining walls and culverts);
- 3) Flood management and drainage;
- 4) Local Growth Deal;
- 5) Accident reduction / safety schemes;
- 6) Congestion and traffic management;
- 7) GM Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund;
- 8) Other minor works (Public Rights of Way, pedestrian and cycle schemes, disabled access improvements etc).

Securing external funding to invest in transport infrastructure is a Council priority and an ongoing activity. The report details several bidding competitions through which the Council is hoping to secure additional funding, including the Future High Streets Fund, the GM Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund, the Department for Transport's Highway Maintenance Challenge Fund and Local Pinch Point Fund and the Environment Agency's Flood Management Programme.

Recommendations

The report is presented for information only.

Transport Capital Programme: Overview and Update**1 Overview of transport capital programme**

- 1.1 The Council has a 3-year rolling transport capital programme, which is approved as part of the annual Capital Strategy and Capital Programme. The 2019/20 to 2021/22 transport capital programme was approved by full Council on the 27th February 2019 as part of the 2019/20 to 2023/24 Capital Strategy.
- 1.2 The value of the approved 3-year programme is currently £37,485,273 as shown in Table 1 below. The 2019/20 programme has a value of £18,756,147 and comprises several areas of work funded from a variety of different sources, including the Local Transport Plan allocation and numerous external grants that the Council has secured through competitive funding competitions. Bids for external funding are normally awarded for the delivery of specific named projects.

Sources of Funding	2019/20 (£)	2020/21 (£)	2021/22 (£)	Total (£)
Agreed Council Resources	345,677	0	0	345,677
Contribution from 3rd Parties	6,440	0	0	6,440
Flood Defence - Local Levy Fund	129,044	0	0	129,044
GM Casualty Reduction Fund	10	0	0	10
Grant in Aid	870,772	0	0	870,772
Growth & Housing Fund Grant	69	0	0	69
Growth Deal 3	1,314,399	4,498,938	0	5,813,337
Local Growth and Reform 2 Grant	1,201,108	0	0	1,202,108
LTP Grant	111,492	0	0	111,492
LTP Highway Maintenance Grant	3,370,062	2,750,828	1,973,000	8,093,890
Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund	757,035	0	0	757,035
Pothole Grant	747,270	0	0	747,270
Prudential Borrowing	8,895,476	5,463,360	4,042,000	18,400,836
S106	45,293	0	0	45,293
Safer Roads Fund	962,000	0	0	962,000
Total	18,756,147	12,713,126	6,015,000	37,485,273

- 1.3 The transport capital programme is subject to ongoing monitoring and review to ensure it continues to reflect current priorities, that budgets match expenditure and that take-up of available grant funding is maximised. This ongoing monitoring results in regular changes to budgets in the approved programme, both between schemes and across the three financial years. Furthermore, as additional funding is secured through successful funding bids, the value of the programme can increase. The programme is formally updated via a series of Modgov budget update reports (the first report for 2019/20 was prepared in July 2019).

2 Programme details

2.1 As explained above, the transport capital programme consists of multiple funding streams which results in a series of sub-programmes within the overall programme. These sub-programmes are listed below:

- 1) Highway maintenance (carriageways and footways);
- 2) Bridges and structures (road bridges, footbridges, retaining walls and culverts);
- 3) Flood management and drainage;
- 4) Local Growth Deal;
- 5) Accident reduction / safety schemes;
- 6) Congestion and traffic management;
- 7) GM Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund; and
- 8) Other minor works.

2.2 An overview of each sub-programme is given below.

2.2.1 Highway maintenance (carriageways and footways)

- The highway maintenance programme has a value of approximately £16M over the 3-year period 2019/20 - 2021/22, of which £12M is prudential borrowing.
- The works in the programme range from small scale repairs to the full reconstruction of carriageways and footways.
- The scope of the works includes the refurbishment of on-highway safety measures to current standards (eg speed cushions, speed tables, junction plateaus).
- The schemes that will be delivered were informed by both condition survey results and engagement with local Members to determine local priorities.
- The programme was approved by Cabinet in March 2019 (*3-Year Highways Improvement Programme, 2019/20 - 2021/22*).

2.2.2 Bridges and structures (road bridges, footbridges, retaining walls and culverts)

- Schemes in the bridges and structures sub-programme tend to require significant development work in readiness for delivery on site, which results in some schemes spanning multiple years across the programme.
- Scheme development can include investigatory works, land acquisition, utility diversions, complicated traffic management and options appraisal to determine the best course of action.
- Bridges and structures schemes also tend to be high value and often cannot be accommodated within a single financial year.
- Examples of schemes recently completed include Middleton Road Bridge refurbishment and A670 Standedge Diggle retaining wall. The reconstruction of the A672 Oldham Road Denshaw retaining wall will begin this financial year.
- Approval has recently been obtained to introduce a new budget of £100,000 per year for '*Minor Structures Works*' to enable high priority, lower value and/or emergency structures works to take place.

2.2.3 Flood management and drainage

- On flood management, the Council is working closely with the Environment Agency (EA) to develop and deliver a programme of flood management schemes as part of the EA's six-year programme to protect 300,000 homes from flooding by March 2021.

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- Schemes delivered to date include: Pencil Brook and Broomes Park, with a £600,000 scheme at Delph New Road/Huddersfield Road, Delph due to commence in September 2019.
 - Funding has also been secured from the EA to prepare business cases this financial year for schemes at Grasmere Road, Royton and Churchfields, Dobcross, with a view to securing further EA resources for scheme delivery beyond March 2021.
 - The programme also includes a minor drainage works budget for small scale highway drainage improvements.

2.2.3 Local Growth Deal Fund

- Through the GM2040 Transport Strategy, Oldham Council has been able to secure funding from the Local Growth Deal Fund. Growth Deal funding is part of the Government's Northern Powerhouse initiative and aims to generate growth, jobs and ambition in towns and cities. In Greater Manchester, this funding has been devolved to the Combined Authority.
- The current transport capital programme contains just one remaining Growth Deal scheme, which is public realm improvements and highways works around the Mumps Metrolink Stop, which will support the retail and hotel development at Mumps. This scheme also included the relocation of the Metrolink park and ride facility, which has already been completed and has released the original park and ride site for development purposes.
- The outstanding public realm and highway works at Mumps, which have a value of approximately £1 million, are currently underway and will be completed this financial year.
- The Council has also been awarded a £6 million Local Growth Deal grant by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority for a major scheme in Oldham Town Centre, 'Accessible Oldham', which is reflected in the capital programme. The grant, however, cannot be drawn down for scheme delivery until schemes have been designed, tender prices obtained, and conditional and full business cases approved by GMCA. The scheme is made up of a package of smaller schemes within Oldham Town Centre and is likely to include public realm and junction improvements. Work is underway through the capital programme to finalise the schemes that will make up the programme. Approval of the Conditional Business Case for submission to TfGM will be the subject of a separate ModGov report in the Autumn.
- Not all the transport funding associated with successful Growth Deal bids sits in the transport capital programme; there is also a Growth Deal contribution of £800,000 towards the cost of providing the access road into the Albert Street development site at Hollinwood in the regeneration capital programme, which is forecast to be spent this financial year.

2.2.4 Accident reduction / safety schemes

- The Council receives no funding specifically for accident reduction schemes but allocates a small proportion of its capital maintenance grant (allowed under the grant terms and conditions) towards accident reduction/safety schemes, which enables a small number of schemes to be included in the programme each year.
- Schemes in the current programme have been identified through a data-led approach based on the frequency and severity of injury accidents.
- The type of measures being delivered includes; traffic calming, crossing facilities and junction improvements.
- Examples of schemes to be delivered include; traffic calming on Wellyhole Street/Constantine Street; Derker Street/London Road; and Middleton Road/Garforth Street/Peel Street junction.

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- The programme also includes the Safer Roads Fund scheme on the A670 in Saddleworth and Tameside, which will be delivered in 2019/20. Oldham led on a joint bid with Tameside and secured Government funding of £962,000, of which Oldham's share is £762,000 in 2019/20. The scheme includes road safety measures along the A670 such as improved pedestrian facilities, enhanced surfacing and new safety barriers.

2.2.5 Congestion and traffic management;

- This programme contains several small-scale traffic management schemes intended to reduce conflict between different types of road user, many of which have been generated following local members raising issues with the Unity traffic team.
- The type of works being delivered includes new or upgraded pedestrian and cyclist crossing facilities, traffic calming, speed reduction measures and junction improvements.
- The following are examples of schemes or scheme locations included in the programme for delivery this financial year: traffic calming at Partington Street, Failsworth; various measures on Acorn Street, Lees; and Park Road/Kings Road/Woodstock Street junction improvements (including pedestrian facilities).
- Following a boroughwide study of key corridors, the programme includes a '*corridor improvement schemes*' budget through which measures will be delivered to reduce congestion, starting with the realignment of the Huddersfield Road/Ripponden Road junction, full signalisation of Elk Mill roundabout and a trial scheme on the A62 Manchester Road at the Chapel Road junction.

2.2.6 GM Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund

- The programme includes two schemes for which we are close to securing funding from the GM Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund: King Street Bridge refurbishment and additional works to complete the refurbishment of Union Street West Bridge (deck resurfacing and waterproofing and painting of the structure).
- These schemes have secured Programme Entry status in the GM Cycling and Walking programme, which has released funding for us to design the scheme and prepare business cases which, if approved, will release funding from the Mayor's £160 million Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund for scheme delivery.
- An indicative allocation of circa £750,000 is reflected in the transport capital programme and will be updated to reflect the final delivery budget agreed by GMCA as and when the business cases are approved.

2.2.7 Other minor works

- This sub-programme comprises all other small-scale measures that are not part of a wider programme;
- It includes Public Rights of Way improvements, pedestrian and cycle schemes, disabled access improvements etc.
- These schemes often benefit from local financial contributions from, for example, local Councillor budgets, developers (through S106 contributions) and private sources.
- Scheme examples include the provision of dropped kerbs along routes to key destinations such as Oldham Town Centre to improve accessibility for pedestrians, particularly those with reduced mobility.

3 Future funding opportunities

3.1 Securing additional funding for investment in transport infrastructure is a priority and an ongoing activity. There are several funding competitions through which the Council is hoping to secure additional funding, as detailed below:

- Future High Streets Fund – the Council’s Expression of Interest to the Government’s Future High Streets Fund was successful and has resulted in an invitation to submit a business case to the next round of the funding competition by January 2020. *Accessible Oldham* was one of the projects included in the Expression of Interest so there is potential for additional funding to be secured to invest in transport infrastructure.
- GM Mayor’s Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund – further bids seeking funding of circa £16M were submitted to tranche 6 of the Mayor’s Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund, the outcome of which will be known in September 2019.
- Department for Transport (DfT) Highway Maintenance Challenge Fund – on 24th July 2019, the DfT launched another round of its Highway Maintenance Challenge Fund competition, with £198 million available for 2019/20 to 2020/21 for the structural maintenance of highways, bridges, retaining walls and other structures, with a bid deadline of 31st October 2019. In Combined Authority areas such as Greater Manchester, local authorities can submit a single bid via a bid co-ordinator at the Combined Authority (CA) and the CA must indicate the relative priority of each proposal. There are two elements to this funding competition, both with a bid deadline of 31st October 2019; one is for funding for 2019/20 for bids up to £5 million and the other for expressions of interest for larger schemes for funding in 2020/21.
- DfT Local Pinch Point Fund – on 24th July, the DfT also launched a further round of its Local Pinch Point Fund, with £150 million available nationally in 2021/22 to 2022/23 for schemes that tackle barriers on the local highway network that may be restricting the movement of goods and people. The deadline for submitting Expressions of Interest to this fund is 31st January 2020. In Combined Authority areas such as Greater Manchester, local authorities can submit a single expression of interest via a bid co-ordinator at the Combined Authority and the CA must indicate the relative priority of each proposal.
- Environment Agency Flood Management Programme – we are expecting the Environment Agency to develop another six-year programme up to March 2027 before the current one ends in March 2021 and will be looking to secure additional resources for Oldham schemes.

4 Key Issues for Overview and Scrutiny to Discuss

4.1 The report is presented for information only and Overview and Scrutiny is invited to comment or request further information on any aspect of the update.

5 Key Questions for Overview and Scrutiny to Consider

5.1 The report is presented for information only.

6 Links to Corporate Outcomes

6.1 Securing funding to invest in the transport network and delivering the transport capital programme contribute towards the corporate objective of achieving an inclusive economy where people and enterprise thrive.

7 Additional Supporting Information

7.1 3-year Local Transport Plan Capital Programme 2018/19 - 2020/21, 27th March 2018
<https://committees.oldham.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=3294>

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- 7.2 Capital Strategy and Capital Programme 2019/20 to 2023/24, Report to Council, 27th February 2019
<https://committees.oldham.gov.uk/documents/s101846/2.%20Capital%20Strategy%20and%20Capital%20Programme%20201920%20to%20202324.pdf>
- 7.3 Transport Capital Programme 2019/20: Budget Update Report 1, 16th July 2019
<https://committees.oldham.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=3690>
- 7.4 3-Year Highways Improvement Programme (2019/20 - 2021/22), Cabinet Report, 25th March 2019
<https://committees.oldham.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=3581>

8 Consultation

- 8.1 The report is presented for information only.

8 Appendices

- 9.1 None.