

## **Members Briefing Note**

### **Highways Funding Allocations 2022/23**

#### **Background**

Torbay Council's Highways Management Service is delivered annually by SWISCo.

Highways maintenance and improvement works are generally funded from 3 allocations.

1. Torbay Council Revenue. – This allocation has been reduced considerably in recent years and will generally fund routine highway maintenance, statutory issues, fees and charges, emergency and temporary works, investigatory works, energy costs, communications and control costs and cyclical maintenance. This funding may be used to support the Local Transport Plan (LTP) capital programme if funding is available.
2. LTP Structural Maintenance Block – This is grant capital funding from the Department for Transport (DfT) and includes the 'Pothole fund' and 'Incentive Fund' elements. This may be used for permanent repair works and should be primarily used in the delivery of improvement of the Highway Asset. This funding is used for major resurfacing works, preventative maintenance, street lighting replacements, repairs to bridges and retaining walls. Due to the recent reductions to the Revenue funding, this allocation is also used to fund reactive maintenance to carriageways, footways and highway drainage, which had previously been funded by the Revenue budget.
3. LTP Integrated Transport Block – This is also a grant capital funding from the DfT which can be used for transport initiatives. The allocation is therefore split between initiatives managed by Spatial Planning (Transportation) and SWISCo highways. The highways elements are generally highways and transport upgrades, which can include highway improvements, road safety engineering, traffic engineering, traffic systems and associated traffic studies and modelling.

Torbay Council has also provided additional highways funding in the years 2021/22 and 2022/23. Some of the 2021/22 funding will be carried forward into the current year and is included in the information below.

SWISCo, along with Officers from Torbay Council have considered the most appropriate priorities for delivery of the highways management programme, including the available funding streams and a proposed breakdown of how this is intended to be delivered is detailed below:

#### **Additional Torbay Council Funding Brought Forward from 2021/22**

Funding Parking Restrictions including Double Yellow Lines – Consultations and advertisements to be commenced in May 2022 once additional resources are in place. An initial list of 30 locations has been agreed with the Cabinet Lead to progress. - £145k

Highway Infrastructure – From the initial £500k allocation, carriageway and footway improvements were undertaken and completed. However, the element for refreshing of worn-out carriageway markings was not completed and will resume in 2022 with additional resources in place - £141.5k

Improving Residential Signage – From the initial allocation of £30k, directional signage in 9 locations and street name plates in 48 locations were replaced, there are some further street name plates to replace in 2022/23 - £7.3k

Highway Improvements – From the initial allocation of £25k some drainage improvements were undertaken in 7 locations where flooding was a higher risk. The improvements will require completion in 2022/23 - £14.6k.

## **Additional Torbay Council Funding Allocation for 2022/23**

Torbay Council has made provision for an additional £570k within the 2022/23 financial year budget for Highways.

Torbay Councils' Cabinet approved a revised Highways Asset Management Strategy and Highways Asset Management Policy in December 2021. These documents are in place to demonstrate how the authority intends to deliver its highways capital programmes and any additional maintenance funding. It is therefore appropriate that a proportion of this funding is directed to compliance with the Asset Management Strategy.

In addition, this funding may be used to support the Local Transport Plan, Implementation Plan and some initiatives are proposed to support this Plan. The proposed initiatives are as follows:

### **Local Transport Plan Supporting Initiatives.**

#### **Traffic Systems**

- We will Replace our Vehicle Actuated '30mph' warning signs in key locations on our network, which are beyond residual lifespan and not currently working effectively. These are an integral part of influencing driver behaviours on strategic roads. The current locations are:

New Road, Brixham,  
Totnes Road, Paignton,  
Colley End Road, Paignton,  
Clennon Valley, Paignton,  
Marldon road, Paignton,  
Preston Down road, Paignton,  
Marldon Road, Torquay,  
Great Hill Road, Torquay  
Teignmouth Road, Torquay  
Kings Ash Road, Paignton

It is the intention to replace defective signs, subject to final costs and supply.

- We will investigate options and implement an upgrade of Major Junction CCTV cameras. These are used on major junctions to assist with traffic management and control incidents and have previously provided 'realtime' information on traffic issues around major interchanges. The current system is not operational due to the age of the technology and requires a full upgrade, the locations are:

Newton Rd/Hele Rd (Lawes Bridge), Torquay  
Newton Rd/Shiphay Lane, Torquay  
Avenue Rd/Falkland Rd (Abbey Gates), Torquay  
Belgrave Rd, Torbay Rd (Sea Front) Torquay  
Dartmouth Rd/Totnes Rd, Paignton  
Brixham Rd/Totnes Rd (Tweenaway X), Paignton  
Brixham Rd/Borough Rd (Clayland X), Paignton  
Brixham Rd/Dartmouth Rd (Windy Corner)  
Riveria Way, (Scotts Bridge)  
Brixham Rd/ Long Rd, Paignton

Edginswell/ Hamelin way, Torquay  
Kings Ash/ Spruce way, Paignton

- We will Replace the Weather Monitoring Station to the A380. The current station is not operational and requires replacement to ensure more accurate local temperature forecasting and to ensure appropriate and efficient decision making for the delivery of the winter maintenance service. This is vital to ensure we are treating our roads in the most effective way.

***Proposed Budget - £110k***

**Traffic and Road Safety Engineering**

- We will continue the roll out of 20 mph zones in residential areas with a further 2-3 areas from the approved programme taken forward to implementation in 2022/23. In priority order these will be aimed at:  
Fore Street, Barton,  
Fisher Street Area, Paignton  
Queensway, Torquay.  
There may not be sufficient resources to implement all three of these schemes in a single financial year, however this will be reviewed as the schemes progress and may be supported by the Integrated Transport Block funding if budget allows.
- We will progress the implementation of additional Traffic Regulation Orders to manage the issue of overnight encampments with the initial focus on Ilisham Marine Drive. Torquay. Ward Councillors are also being requested to identify other problem locations and these will also be investigated to propose and implement solutions.

***Proposed Budget - £75k***

**Highways Maintenance and Upgrades**

- To support the Structural Maintenance Programme, in accordance with the Highways Asset Management Strategy with Additional carriageway preventative maintenance and resurfacing works. The proposed programme for 2022/23 is shown in Appendix 1.
- To support the Structural Maintenance Programme with additional footway reconstruction works to replace defective areas. The priority areas that have been identified are residential areas with badly worn slabbed footways, as these are the most likely to cause hazards to pedestrians. We have programmed works to Dorchester Grove, Audley Avenue and Orange Grove, Torquay and further areas will be considered if the budget will allow.
- To provide additional resources to increase weed control across the highway network.

***Proposed Budget £385k***

**Integrated Transport Block Funding 2022/23**

The allocations to deliver schemes to support the LTP Implementation plan for 2022/23 are proposed as follows: It should be noted that due to a significant proportion of this funding being required to provide the authority's match funding for the recently implemented Torquay Gateway Scheme, the allocations for this year will be reduced, however this is expected to increase in the remaining years of the current plan. The proposed programme is as follows:

- We will continue our programme of ‘Road Safety Initiatives’ and ‘Minor Road Safety Engineering’ improvements. Schemes to be determined following the annual collision site review and where budget allows, may also support the Traffic and Road Safety Engineering proposals above.

***Proposed Budget £50k***

- We will provide pedestrian dropped crossings and Street Furniture to provide improved access for vulnerable pedestrians, This is part of an ongoing programme to ensure improved access on footways. This will be a targeted programme and will react to requests from affected members of the public who identify mobility issues in their area.

***Proposed budget £10k***

- We will continue the implementation of the programme of Traffic Signal Junction upgrades across Torbay we will be delivering improvements at Newton Road/Avenue Road (Torre Station), Torquay and Torquay Road/Seaway Road/Headland Park Road, Paignton junctions during the 2022/23 financial year and also commissioning traffic counts and studies in readiness to continue the upgrade programme in 2023/24.

***Proposed budget £200k***

**Structural Maintenance Block Funding**

The DfT allocation for Highways Structural Maintenance for 2022/23 totals **£1820k**. This is proposed to be used in accordance with the approved Highways Asset Management Plan and will be apportioned to deliver the following highway maintenance initiatives:

- Reactive Carriageway Maintenance (defect repair)
- Reactive Footway Maintenance (defect repair)
- Highway Drainage Upgrades (defects and minor flooding issues)
- Highway Fencing upgrades
- Bridge and Retaining Wall Maintenance
- Street lighting Column Replacements.
- Footway Reconstruction.
- Carriageway Preventative Maintenance. – See Appendix 1
- Carriageway Reconstruction and Resurfacing. - See Appendix 1

**Conclusion**

The additional funding to improve the Highway Network across Torbay is very welcome, however there remains a large backlog of maintenance works to address, and this will be a continuing challenge.

Resources within the Highways Team also remains a difficulty in terms of delivering additional services and there may be a requirement to commission some delivery from internal and external consultants for some schemes.

It should also be noted that currently our external supply chains are experiencing considerable issues with the supply of some materials and apparatus, which is impacting on timescales for the delivery of highway works. Furthermore we are being advised by suppliers and contractors that due to these supply issues, the rise in energy and oil prices and current demand, prices are likely to rise significantly, which may affect the amount of work that can be delivered for the allocated budget. It should therefore be noted that there may need to be some flexibility to the proposals

above where such issues affect the timescales for scheme delivery or result in higher-than-expected costs.

It is however recommended that Members support the principles of this Briefing Note to ensure appropriate use of the limited funds available to deliver a programme of highway improvements during the 2022/23 financial year.

Ian Jones  
May 2022.

**Appendices.**

**Appendix 1 – Proposed Carriageway Maintenance Works 2022/23.**

The following list is a provisional programme of major carriageway maintenance works. It should be noted however that this remains subject to programming alongside other conflicting works on the highway network and having due regard to the available budget. The programme is therefore likely to be amended as the year progresses.

**Proposed Carriageway Maintenance Schemes – 2022/23**

Scheme Details	Suggested Start Date	Expected Completion Date	Comments
Surface Dressing Programme (rolling traffic management) Foxhole Road, Paignton Higher Lincombe Road, Torquay Kings Ash Road, Paignton- Bottom Section Cotehele Drive, Paignton Lutyens Drive, Paignton Earlswood Drive, Paignton Trelissick Drive, Paignton Totnes Road, Paignton Kings Ash Road, Paignton- Top Section Hamelin Way, Torquay	25 April 2022	6 May (surfacing completed)	Schemes completed on time. This is preventative maintenance on roads that have not yet reached the point of requiring full resurfacing. This provides good value for money, is in line with the Highways Asset Management Strategy and has a much lower carbon footprint than resurfacing works. Some carriageway marking works to be completed during May 2022

Meadfoot Sea Road Resurfacing Adjacent to Meadfoot Beach (including Footway) - Road Closure	6 June 2022	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	Resurfacing works to be undertaken prior to main summer season, however needs to take advantage of better weather in this location, expected to re-open at weekend..
Windsor Road, Torquay – Ellacombe Church Road section towards Junction with Congella Road – Road Closure	TBA	TBA	Originally planned for June 2022 but now delayed until later in the year due to contractor resources.
Shiphay Lane Torquay Devon Dumpling to Shiphay Ave ~ Reconstruction - road closure.	Summer 2022 TBC – duration 9 weeks	Summer 2022 TBC	It is proposed to undertake during the Summer weeks to take advantage of school holidays in part, this is not a strategic route so would not affect holiday traffic.
Middle Street Brixham, Reconstruction (New Road to Bus stops at Town Square and in front of bus stops ~ road closure.	October 2022 – duration 4 weeks	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2022	This will be disruptive to the Town Centre and Harbour, discussions with Fishing industry and other stakeholders will be required. The limited road widths will require closures to carry out the works.
Torquay Road Paignton Reconstruction (Kings Road to Higher Polsham Road ~ two-way traffic lights.	Date to be confirmed/discussed – duration 8 weeks – Autumn/Winter 2022/23.	Autumn/winter 2022/23	This was planned for Spring 2022 but postponed due to overrun of Torbay Road Bridge replacement by Network Rail.

			The road is in very poor condition.
Dendy Road Paignton Reconstruction ~ road closure.	Date to be confirmed/discussed – duration 8 weeks	Autumn/winter 2022/23	Disruption to Town Centre deliveries and parking likely, Road is in poor condition.
Commercial Road Paignton, Reconstruction ~ road closure.	Date to be confirmed/discussed – duration 6 weeks	Autumn/winter 2022/23	As above
Torbay Road, Torquay Resurfacing – Adjacent to Princes Theatre	Spring 2022 or Autumn 2022 TBC 4-5 Days		Road is in poor condition in part, need to programme around other works in the area, so timescale is uncertain currently.