
From: Bryan Sweetland, Cabinet Member – Environment, Highways & Waste
John Burr - Director of Highways & Transportation

To: Environment, Highways & Waste Cabinet Committee

Date: 20 September 2012

Subject: Member Highway Fund – Progress Report

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

Good progress has been made since the last report to this committee, the outstanding work from the previous 3 year programme has been significantly reduced.

New applications for the 2012/13 year have been arriving at an encouraging rate, however just over a third of this year's anticipated MHF applications have yet to be received by the Member Highway Fund Team.

The turnaround time from receipt of the application to an order being placed is now circa 15 weeks. This is a 70% improvement on last years performance.

Due to the need to complete all of this year's programme within the current financial year, certain work/scheme types can no longer be applied for. This is mainly due to two issues, the first is the seasonal nature of certain types of works (eg. Surface dressing, anti skid surfacing, etc), the second is the time required for certain consultations and publishing traffic regulation orders (eg. Traffic calming, speed limits).

The new web based system is to provide instant access for County Members to their progress reports will be available at the end of October.

1. Progress Report 2012 / 2013 applications

1.1 Applications

To date, 216 applications for 2012/13 Member Highway Fund have been received. Assuming that 4 applications will be received per member (336 total) this constitutes 64% of anticipated applications.

To date 19 (23%) of County Members have submitted no applications for the 2012/13 Member Highway Fund. 49 County Members (58%) have submitted applications for less than half their budget.

To date 24 applications above the 4 free applications have been received, an estimated fee cost to County Members of £23,880.

1.2 Turn around of applications

The current average turn around of initial applications to a proposal being sent to the County Member by the area engineer is 5.8 weeks.

The current average time taken for Members to return signed proposal forms to the area engineer for approval is 3.5 weeks. The current average turn around from approval of a detailed scheme by John Burr to an order being placed with the contractor is 5.9 weeks.

The total average turnaround from receipt of the application to an order being placed is 15.2 weeks. This is a significant reduction on the average turnaround last year of 52 weeks.

1.3 Scheme Timescales

It was agreed at Cabinet Committee on 11 May 2012 that, in light of the upcoming elections, all 2012/13 Member Highway Fund shall be spent by the end of the current financial year, no rollover of monies will be permitted.

In order to ensure that schemes are installed before the end of this financial year, to allow reasonable programming and avoid installing schemes during inclement weather, orders need to be placed with both Enterprise and external suppliers before mid December.

With this in mind, it is now no longer possible for the following types of scheme applications to be processed by the team for implementation this financial year:

Seasonal work

- Surface Dressing
- High Friction surfacing (except patches at gateways)
- Micro-surfacing
- Full depth carriageway construction

Traffic regulation order and consultation

- Installation of a zebra crossing
- Installation of a pelican or Toucan crossing
- Installation of road humps or sets of speed cushions
- Installation of any parking restrictions
- Installation of School Keep Clear markings
- Installation of weight limit
- Installation of new speed limit

2. Outstanding works from 2011/12

There remains £405,740 of works from last financial year to be ordered. 14 of the outstanding applications for 2009 to 2012 remain unapproved, and have not been closed by the County Member. The majority of these schemes were late applications,

or have complex stakeholder/consultation issues. There remains a number of schemes which are being progressed by the Borough and District Councils which have been subject to local batching of schemes.

3. New web-based Member Highway Fund system

The new web based Member Highway Fund system, will go live on 10 September for scheme data. The County Member access is being developed and instant access to update reports will be available to all County Member by the end of October 2012.

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