



Allocation of Additional Funds to Highways Agencies

To: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board

Meeting Date: 25 November 2020

Lead Member: Mayor James Palmer

From: Jon Alsop
Chief Finance Officer

Key decision: Yes

Forward Plan ref: KD2020/080

Recommendations: The Combined Authority Board is consulted:

a) on the Mayor's intention to allocate grant funding to Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) and Peterborough City Council (PCC) relating to:

- a. Additional Pothole Grant Funds
- b. Home to School Transport Funds

b) Subject to a) above, the Mayor is recommended to allocate the grants as set out below:

Additional Pothole and Challenge Funds

CCC - £10,201,000

PCC - £2,353,000

Total - £12,554,000

Additional Home to School and College Transport Funds

CCC - £876,164

PCC - £179,328

Total - £1,055,492

Voting arrangements: No vote is required – allocation of grant funding is a Mayoral decision.

1 Purpose

- 1.1 The Combined Authority has received or has been notified that it will be in receipt of additional funds from the Department of Transport (DfT) and the Department for Education (DfE) in respect of 'Additional Pothole and Challenge Grant Funds' and 'Additional Home to School and College Transport Funds' for the 2020/21 financial year. The Mayor must consult the Combined Authority before making a decision to pay these grants to Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council.

2 Background

- 2.1 In accordance with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Order 2017, the Mayor is responsible for the payment of grants to Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council and the Mayor must consult the Combined Authority before exercising that function.

- 2.2 Two tranches of 'Pothole Funding' and Challenge Funding' have been allocated to the Combined Authority for 2020/21 totalling £12,554,000.

- 2.3 As in previous years, it is intended to forward this funding on to the two Highways Authorities in the area. Agreement has been reached with both authorities that the allocation should be based on the DfT formula that has previously been used to allocate the maintenance (needs & incentive) funding, which was the subject of the 'Local Highways Maintenance Capital grant allocation' paper that was brought to the Board in June.

- 2.4 The allocation calculated on this basis, provides the following split:

CCC - £10,201,000

PCC - £2,353,000

Total - £12,554,000

- 2.5 Two tranches of funding have also been allocated to CPCA from the Department for Education (DfE) to fund extra capacity for 'Additional Dedicated Home To School (H2S) and College Transport' (grant determination 2020: No 31/5137, because Social Distancing for Covid-19 has reduced seating capacity on service buses. The total funds awarded, £1,055,492 were made up of £678,172 for Tranche 1 covering the first half of the Autumn 2020 school term and £377,320 for Tranche 2 covering the second half of the Autumn 2020 school term.

- 2.6 As Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) and Peterborough City Council (PCC) hold responsibility for Homes to School Transport (H2S) arrangements by way of the CPCA Board decision of 29 January 2020, the funding will be passported to them to fund Extra Capacity costs for H2S transport

- 2.7 The apportionment of funding between CCC and PCC is based on the actual expenditure on Home to School transport incurred by each Council in 2019/20. This results in £179,328 (16.99%) being allocated to PCC, and £876,164 (83.01%) to CCC.

- 2.8 The DfE requires any unspent portion of this money to be returned to them and so the grants to PCC and CCC will be made with a matching repayment clause to ensure that underspends flow back from the recipient Councils to DfE.
- 2.9 The prime use of the grant has been to provide extra capacity through the provision of extra buses and coaches at each morning and afternoon peak, parking them as “hot spares” across the Authority area and despatching them from a central control area to deal with any localised overloading. It is believed that all issues so far have been dealt with rapidly with extra buses being run and timetabled frequencies increased as necessary.
- 2.10 Based on this success, the hot spare policy is being continued for the second half of the Autumn Term. This policy is expected to cost significantly less than the grant available, while ensuring all learners can access education as required.

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no ongoing financial risks to the Combined Authority arising from the allocation of this funding. CCC and PCC will be required to provide a certification as to the use and application of these funds, and will be responsible for their own risk management arrangements in delivering the services associated with this funding.

4 Legal Implications

- 4.1 The recommendations in this report accord with the Mayor’s powers under Part 4 of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Order 2017 (SI 2017/251).

5 Other Significant Implications

- 5.1 None identified.

6 Appendices

- 6.1 None

7 Background Papers

- 7.1 [Combined Authority Board agenda and reports - 29 January 2020](#)