

Planning & Environment Committee

Report No.7

Community Issues 3699, 4677, 4260 & 5602

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To provide information to the committee to enable consideration, and a recommendation to P&R for approval of an appropriate level of funding, to allow the submission by the Community Area Transport Group [CATG], on behalf of MTC, of a Highways Substantive Bid [HSB] in 2018 for makeweight funding for the four linked Community Issues [CI] at title.

2. Background

- 2.1 At various points over the last couple of years the CIs at title have been submitted to, and considered by, the CATG. It was considered that the four CIs were interrelated and thus should be taken as one project. This project has now been raised to Priority 1 status which means it can be considered for funding and progression.
- 2.2 The details of the four CIs are – **3699**, road safety concerns along Bristol Street; **4677**, the reduction of the present 30mph limit along Gloucester Road to be reduced to 20mph; **5602**, size and speed of vehicles through Parklands which is an area with a high predominance of elderly residents.; and **4260**, change of priority of traffic flows at the junction of Abbey Row/Bristol Street/Gloucester Road combined with the removal of the carriageway restrictions. CIs 3699, 4677 and 5602 will be delivered primarily by additional/improved signage and the extension of the 20mph zone, all of which will require a Traffic Order [TRO] which is an expensive process. CI 4260, if undertaken as a separate project, will also require a TRO and the use of light-controlled traffic management whilst the junction is reprofiled; these are necessary but expensive requirements.
- 2.3 The 2018 deadline for submissions for delivery in 2019/20 is 17th August however an extension to 5th September is being sought to allow P&R to consider the issue at their next meeting. If this deadline is missed the next window for submissions will be Summer 2019 for delivery in 2020/21. The CATG Highways officer has undertaken some preparatory work with costings for both CATG and MTC consideration and confirmation of the level of their financial contributions. CIs 3699, 4677 and 5602 can be more effectively delivered by combining at a total cost of £10K, whilst CI 4260 is estimated to cost £25K.
- 2.4 Due to the large number of calls on the CATG budget over the last two years, it is only possible to allocate £3K towards the combined project cost. As previously, the greater the local parish contribution the better the chances of a successful bid. The uncommitted CATG budget for 2018/19 is circa £5K.

3. Options

3.1 The Committee could choose to:

- Decline to support the 2018 bid for the four CIs
- Separate the projects as described in 2.3 above and support a bid for one [£10K] or other [£25K] of the projects with a contribution from reserves which includes unallocated CIL money.
- Support a bid for a combined project [£35K] with a contribution from reserves which includes unallocated CIL money.
- Finance a combined project totally from reserves thereby dispensing with the uncertainty of the outcome of the HSB and any subsequent delay.

4. Financial implications

4.1 Bullet point one has no financial implications whilst bullet points two, three and four have varying degrees of financial commitment and will of course require P&R sign off to use reserves.

5. Recommendation

5.1 To consider how best to proceed in the interests of the community and residents in the affected areas.

Cllr Roger Budgen
01.08.2018