

TITLE OF REPORT: JOINT MEMBER PANEL DISCRETIONARY BUDGET

REPORT OF THE NORTH HERTS DISTRICT MANAGER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Panel a final progress report on approved 2007/08 schemes.
- 1.2 To recommend to the Panel an initial set of schemes for funding during 2008/09.
- 1.3 To inform the Panel of the discretionary budget available for 2008/09.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A package of schemes has been developed and approved by the Panel during the year 2007/08, the cost of which has taken up the full allocated budget of £100,000. Progress on those schemes is presented in summary form in 3.1 below and a financial summary is given at 5.2.
- 2.2 At the January 2008 Panel meeting, it was resolved that the five NHDC Area Committees should be invited, at the next available cycle of meetings, to propose candidates schemes which accord with one or more of the following themes:
 - a) Minor re-surfacing works;
 - b) Road safety schemes;
 - c) Maintenance of verges;
 - d) Enhancement of town centres and village centres;
 - e) Maintenance of rural highways;
 - f) Referrals from NHDC Area Committees for works;
 - g) Maintenance in town centres;
- 2.3 At the January 2008 Panel meeting, it was also resolved that the 2008/09 allocated budget to the JMP which would be deployed on a jointly funded basis wherever possible. The process towards joint funding will follow the flow chart as shown in Appendix A attached to this report. The flow chart, previously approved by the Panel, has been updated to reflect minor changes in both the member and officer arenas.

3. ISSUES

3.1 Progress on 2007/08 Schemes

a) **A10 London Road, Royston - Vehicle Activated Speed Sign**

Funding for this sign is based upon a contribution of £5,733 from the NHDC Royston Area Committee plus £2,000 from the Panel's discretionary budget as funding for the design cost of the scheme. Work on site to date comprises the installation of the sign post and electrical supply cable. At the time of writing this report, the sign itself was expected to be installed on 10 April.

b) **Grass Verge Areas Subject to Repeated Damage**

The table below shows the sites where works have been carried out, the nature of the works reflecting the specific site problem. Work at all sites excepting the last three, which are late additions to the programme, is complete. The remaining three sites are expected to be complete by the date of the meeting.

Town	Road	Treatment	Cost £
Baldock	Clothall Road	Bird beak fencing	4,000
Hitchin	Burford Way	Wooden bollards	2,800
Hitchin	Nine Springs Way	Wooden bollards	1,500
Hitchin	The Crescent	Wooden bollards	1,000
Hitchin	Wymondley Road	Wooden bollards	3,000
Letchworth	Baldock Road	Wooden bollards	1,100
Letchworth	Icknield Way	Bird beak fencing	3,600
Letchworth	Pixmore Way	Wooden bollards	1,500
Letchworth	Fourth Avenue	Wooden bollards	6,600
Royston	Lankester Road	Verge hard surfacing	14,900
Hitchin	Stormont Road	Wooden bollards	1,000
Hitchin	Westfield Lane	Verge hard surfacing	2,000
Royston	Orchard Road	Verge hard surfacing	5,000
Total cost			£48,000

Continuing operational problems being experienced by NHDC indicate that a need still exists for work at further locations. Discussions on a third programme of sites have been initiated by the District Manager as part of the HH/NHDC officer liaison process and a list of sites for consideration in 2008/2009 appears later in this report.

c) **Jacksons Lane, Reed - New Footway**

This footway, giving improved pedestrian access to the village school, was jointly funded by £8,250 from the NHDC Parish Challenge initiative and £8250 from the Panel's 2007/08 discretionary works budget.

d) **Maintenance of VA Signs that do not meet policy criteria**

A sum of £1,000 was committed from the 2007/08 discretionary budget to fund the maintenance of two signs, at Wymondley Road Hitchin and Willian Village.

e) **Norton Road/Pond Lane, Baldock - Waiting restrictions**

The new waiting restrictions were in force by mid February 2008.

g) **Stevenage Road, Hitchin; junction with The Maples - Extension of waiting restrictions**

A traffic regulation order has now been prepared for the restrictions, subject to a statutory consultation period, which incorporates the opportunity for objections to be lodged. The period ends on 21 April and it is hoped that a verbal update can be provided at the meeting.

k) **Rock Road Royston - Extension of waiting restrictions**

The funding of £3,000 allocated by the Panel to this scheme has been transferred to NHDC as Rock Road forms part of a wider review of waiting restrictions in Royston.

l) **Package of Footway Resurfacing Sites**

The following sites were resurfaced during 2007/08 by means of the Highways Extra delivery mechanism:

Poplar Drive, Royston
Paynes Park, Hitchin
Tannery Drift, Royston
London Road/High Street, Barley

The funding allocated to these sites enabled them to be brought from the list of reserve sites into the implementation programme.

3.2 Themes for 2008/2009

At the January 2008 meeting of the Panel, the following themes were agreed as the basis for proposed candidate schemes:

- a) Minor re-surfacing works;
- b) Road safety schemes;
- c) Maintenance of verges;
- d) Enhancement of town centres and village centres;
- e) Maintenance of rural highways;
- f) Referrals from NHDC Area Committees for works;
- g) Maintenance in town centres;

3.3 Budget allocation for 2008/09

A sum of £100,000 has been placed at the disposal of the North Hertfordshire Highways Joint Member Panel for discretionary schemes approved by the Panel.

3.4 Schemes for 2008/2009

At the January 2008 meeting of the Panel, members indicated that before provisionally committing any of the 2008/09 discretionary budget, they wished to consider candidate schemes and projects identified by the NHDC area committees, by the process detailed in 2.2 above. Consequently all the schemes listed below have the status of provisional candidates only

a) Grass Verge Areas Subject to Repeated Damage

As indicated in 3.1 b) above, operational problems in maintaining some highway verges continue to be experienced by NHDC and its grounds maintenance contractor. This serves to indicate that a need exists for protection works at further locations. Preparation of a third programme of sites has been initiated by the District Manager as part of the HH/NHDC officer liaison process and a provisional list of sites where protection measures are sought appears below.

Town	Road	Treatment	Cost £
Hitchin	Wymondley Road	Wooden bollards	1,500
Hitchin	Bury Mead Road (first section from Grove Rd junction)	Verge hardening	4,000
Letchworth	Eldefield	Wooden bollards	1,500
Letchworth	Highfield	Wooden bollards	5,500
Letchworth	Unwin Close/ High Ave	Wooden bollards	1,100
Letchworth	Works Road f/o A&M Motorcycles	Wooden bollards	2,500
Letchworth	Jubilee Rd	Wooden bollards	5,000
Royston	Greenfield	Verge hardening	15,000
Royston	Orchard Road	Verge hardening	28,500
Total estimated cost			£64,600

b) Resurfacing of Berkeley, Letchworth Garden City

At the previous meeting of the Panel, held on 28 January 2008, it was resolved: "That the NHDC Head of Community Development and Cultural Services be requested to ensure that the Community Development Officer for Letchworth includes in the next issue of Champion News a request for joint funding of £10,000 that would contribute to the cost of road surface repairs at Berkeley, Letchworth Garden City;"

A scheme for microsurfacing of Berkeley features in the final version of the Integrated Work Programme for 2008/09, as detailed in another report to this meeting. Inclusion of this scheme has been made possible by additional funding provided by HCC for highway maintenance.

c) Maintenance of VA Signs that do not meet policy criteria

A sum of £1,000 was committed from the 2007/08 discretionary budget to fund the maintenance of two signs, at Wymondley Road Hitchin and Willian Village. This maintenance charge is needed for a total period of five years, commencing 2007/08, therefore it must be regarded as a first call on the 2008/09 budget.

d) Haselfoot, Letchworth - Additional street lighting column

At the October 2007 meeting of the Panel, it was resolved:-

"i) That the request for an additional lighting column in Haselfoot, Letchworth Garden City at the estimated cost of £1000 be agreed;

ii) That the sum of £500 be allocated from the JMP Discretionary budget for 2007-2008;

iii) That in order for this scheme to be progressed that the Letchworth Area Committee be invited to allocate the balance of £500 from their discretionary budgets for 2007-2008."

At the meeting of the NHDC Letchworth Area Committee held in September 2007, it was resolved:-

"That £500 be allocated towards extra lighting in Haselfoot, subject to this sum being matched with £500 from Hertfordshire Highways;"

The NHDC Community Development Officer for Letchworth Garden City has confirmed that the NHDC funding for this project is still available, so it can be progressed this year should members so wish.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Traffic regulation orders may be required in order to progress some of the schemes. This will be the case for any schemes involving new waiting restrictions.

5. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Approved Schemes 2007/2008

a)	A10 London Road, Royston - VA Sign (design fee)	2,000
b)	Verge Protection Works	48,000
c)	Jacksons Lane, Reed - New footway	8,250
d)	Maintenance of VA signs	1,000
e)	Norton Road/Pond Lane - Waiting restrictions (Baldock AC)	1,000
f)	The Maples - Waiting restrictions (Hitchin AC)	3,000
g)	B656 Codicote speed limit extension (S Rural AC)	2,000
h)	Rock Road Royston - Extension of waiting restrictions	3,000
i)	Footway Surfacing Package	31,750

Total - approved schemes **£100,000**
(Budget = £100,000)

5.2 For 2008/09, the discretionary budget allocated to this Joint Member Panel from HCC funds is £100,000. This must accommodate both the works costs and design fees of all approved projects.

5.3 Human resources to progress approved schemes will be provided by the existing Hertfordshire Highways staff establishment.

6. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

6.1 Local consultations to be carried out on a project specific basis.

6.2 NHDC ward members will be informed and consulted by NHDC officers via the area committees.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 That the Panel notes the final progress report on the schemes for the year 2007/08.
- 7.2 That the Panel approves the minor revisions to the flow chart for joint funded highway projects, as shown in Appendix A.

8. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 To maintain the flow of information to members regarding the schemes.
- 8.2 To ensure that the process flow chart reflects current practice.

9. APPENDICES

- 9.1 Appendix A - Process for progressing joint funding for highways projects in North Hertfordshire.

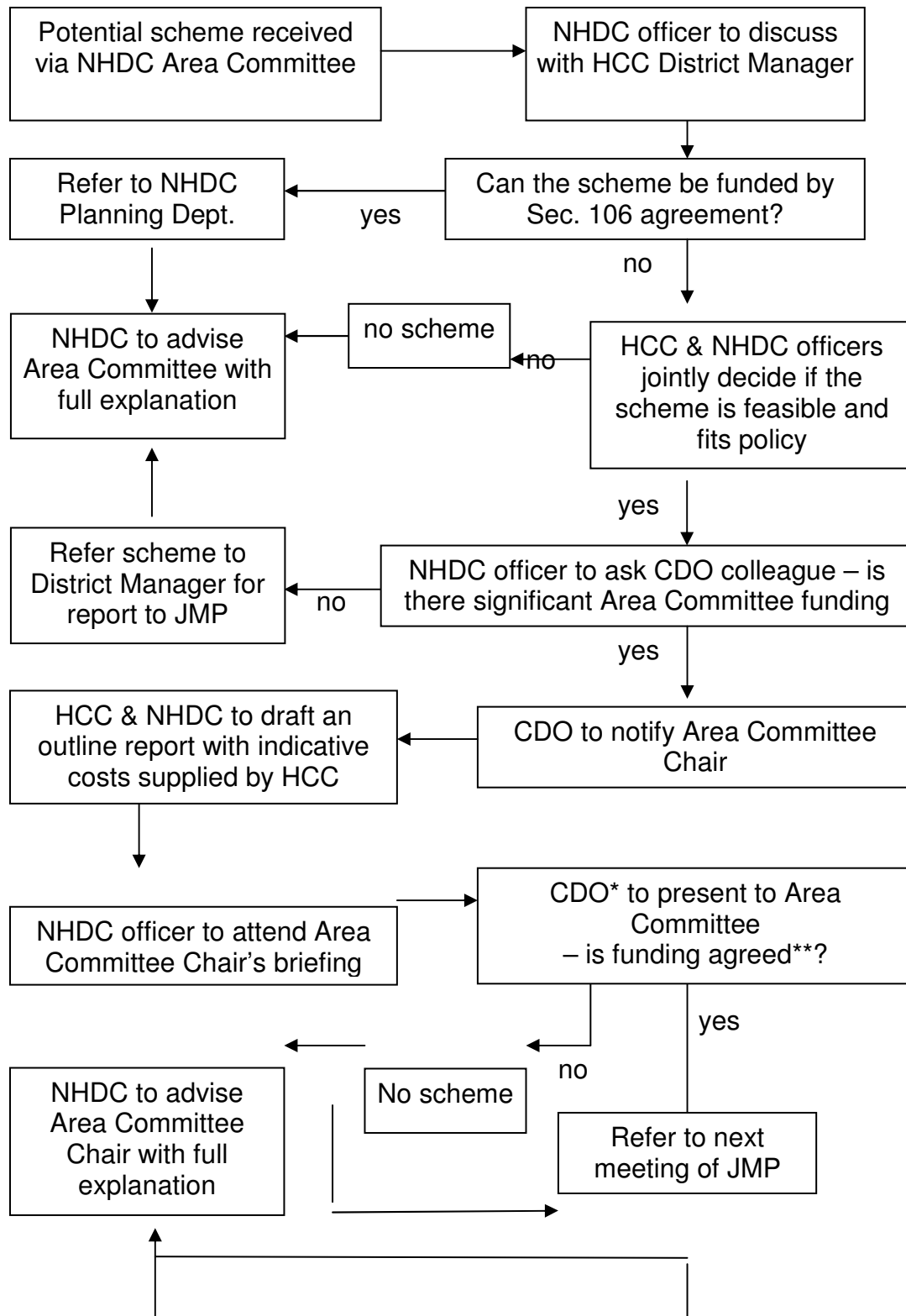
10. CONTACT OFFICERS

- 10.1 Steve Greenhill, District Manager (North Herts), Hertfordshire Highways.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 Report to and minutes of the North Hertfordshire Highways Joint Member Panel meeting held on 28 January 2008.

Process for progressing joint funding for highways projects in North Hertfordshire
ver.3 - 3 April 2008



* CDO may be replaced by another NHDC officer if the report is very technical or complex

** Funding agreed = Area Committee agree the proportion or maximum they will fund and delegate decision on exact figures to NHDC Officers

