



## **REPORT of THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

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**to  
COUNCIL  
13 SEPTEMBER 2018**

### **REQUEST FOR MATCH FUNDING TO BRING FORWARD ADDITIONAL COUNTY HIGHWAYS PROJECTS**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 On 24 May 2018, Councillor Kevin Bentley the Essex County Council Cabinet member for Infrastructure wrote to the Leader of Maldon District Council offering match funding of up to £100,000 to bring forward additional repairs to potholes in the District's roads.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (i) That Maldon District Council rejects the offer of match funding by Essex County Council as the repair of potholes is a statutory function of the County Council;
- (ii) That the Director of Service Delivery writes to Councillor Kevin Bentley to confirm the Council's position.

#### **3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 The Cabinet Member for Infrastructure at Essex County Council wrote to Councillor Mark Durham on 24 May 2018, who at the time was Leader of the Council. A copy of this letter is provided for Members at **APPENDIX 1**.
- 3.2 The letter sets out an offer from Essex County Council (ECC) which announces "close to £5 million in additional investment to fund further pothole repairs and highways improvements across the county. As part of this investment ECC as allocated £1.2 million to increase the budgets of our Local Highways Panels. This funding is available equally across the twelve Local Highways Panels, up to £100,000 each. It will only be awarded subject to match funding up to a maximum £100,000, being committed by the relevant local Borough, City, or District Council.
- 3.3 Maldon District Council has a significant future budget gap which is being addressed through the Full Council Transformation programme. The transformation programme is being funded from available reserves which in turn reduces funds available for projects that the Council does not have a statutory duty to provide.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 Whilst the provision of additional funding might bring forward additional highways projects Maldon District Council does not have sufficient reserves to fund projects that it does not have a statutory duty to provide. The duty to provide any works rests wholly with Essex County Council and is not the responsibility of the District Council.

#### **5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS**

- 5.1 This report supports the corporate goal of delivering good quality, cost effective and valued services

#### **6. IMPLICATIONS**

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Additional expenditure on pot holes may improve a limited number of the roads in the District, however use of essential District Council reserves to deliver may impact further on the District Council's savings gap and ability to deliver statutory services in future.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – None.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – There is no capital or revenue budget set aside for the match funding requested in the letter provided at **APPENDIX 1**. Any funding would need to be made available from unused existing resources which are minimal due to our commitment of Investment in the Future Model.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – Match funding provided by Maldon District Council will enable Essex County Council to bring forward further highways improvements.

Background Papers: **APPENDIX 1:** Letter from Essex County Council dated 24 May 2018

Enquiries to: Corporate Leadership Team, (Tel: 01621 875710).