

Wiltshire Council National Productivity Investment Fund 2017/18



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The Department for Transport has provided funding for local highway and other local transport improvements which aim to reduce congestion at key locations, upgrade or improve the maintenance of local highway assets across England, improve access to employment and housing, and develop economic and job creation opportunities. In 2017/18 a £185 million from this fund has been allocated to local highway authorities in England, based on a formulaic approach.

Wiltshire Council was pleased to receive £2,946,000 from the Department for Transport's National Productivity Investment Fund in 2017/18. The Council has identified a package of proposals for this funding. These projects are in addition to the Council's already planned maintenance service and programmes. The funding will not displace the Council's increased funding on road maintenance, and is being used in addition to the already planned programme of maintenance and renewal.

The package of Wiltshire Council National Productivity Investment Fund proposals is aimed at:

- Reducing congestion and improving safety
- Improving main routes
- Supporting the rural economy
- Walking and cycling schemes
- Travel improvements

A majority of the funding (£1,021,000) will be used to reduce congestion and improve safety at key road junctions. It is proposed to update and improve the communications system for the Salisbury traffic control system as the existing system is becoming obsolete. Aging traffic signal control equipment will be replaced and junction alterations implemented at other locations across the county. Design work will be progressed for improvements in future years to improve capacity and safety.

The Council already has a substantial programme of highway maintenance planned, but additional funding (£158,000) will be used to carry out main road surfacing at locations it was not possible to include in the current programme, but which would benefit from repair because of developing structural failure.

The rural economy is particularly important in Wiltshire, both in terms of agriculture and tourism. Damage to minor rural roads will be repaired, and access to minor lanes and byways will be improved (£887,000). This will include the use of recycled road plantings on rights of way, and the repair of highway verges damaged by the larger vehicles using them these days.

The opportunity will be taken to undertake environmental improvements and enhanced maintenance (£450,000) at two locations in Salisbury, including at Fish Row which will extend the extensive enhancement works carried out in the Market Place. This will improve the area for tourists, visitors and the local community.

Walking and cycling schemes will be included in the package (£250,000). The second phase of the Riverside Path at Monkton Park, Chippenham will be constructed and a joint project with Highways England for a Royal Wootton Bassett to Swindon cycleway will be developed in more detail.

Travel Improvements (£180,000) will include a study into using new technology for smart parking in Chippenham and for potential introduction in other towns across the county. Proposals will also be developed for future rail service enhancements.

The package of improvements will be subject to approval by the Council's Cabinet, but it is not envisaged that there will be any major problems with regard to implementing the proposals. Wiltshire Council has a good track record of delivery schemes, including a previous Local Pinch Point scheme at Chippenham.