

CABINET- 15 December 2020**CABINET RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE EPSOM & EWELL LOCAL COMMITTEE****Recommendations:**

The Epsom and Ewell Local Committee express its concern that the Local Committee Highway allocation is facing a proposed cut from £254,500 in 2020/2021 to £193,100 in 2021/2022. The funding is already inadequate, and the lowest in Surrey, and a budget cut of £61,400 equates to nearly 25%. In addition, the current formula for allocating local funding does not reflect road usage, which penalises Epsom and Ewell with its high road usage compared to much of Surrey. The Local Committee therefore calls upon the Cabinet Member for Transport,

- To review this proposed cut and restore the funding to at least the allocation figure for 2020/2021
- To amend the formulae for allocating Local Highway funding so that it reflects road usage and not the length of road or geographical area.

Cllr Tina Mountain
Chairman of the Epsom & Ewell Local Committee

Cabinet Response:

The figures provided to the Epsom & Ewell Local Committee were based on the draft budget in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. I am pleased to confirm that the capital allocation for the Local and Joint Committees has been increased to £3m. This means that the level of highway funding under the direct control of Epsom and Ewell Local Committee Members will be at the same level as in 2020/21.

Capital	£217,000	
Revenue	£37,500	(£7,500 per Member)
Total	£254,500	

Plus any on-street parking surpluses / developer contributions

Careful consideration is given to how the capital allocation is distributed between the eleven Local / Joint Committees. It is no longer allocated according to road length but is split on the basis of how many County Councillors there are on the Committee. Each County Council division has broadly the same number of constituents, with a wide variety of pressing highway concerns. But to avoid penalising the smaller Boroughs such as Epsom & Ewell, each Committee is awarded £100,000, with the remaining budget (£1,900,000) shared in line with the number of Members. If we were to allocate only in line with the number of Members, Epsom & Ewell's share of capital would reduce by £32,000 to £185,000.

It should be recognised that the County Council's highway capital investment programme is based on sound asset management principles. This means that those roads in most need of maintenance works will be prioritised, regardless of where there are situated in the County.

Reply from Mr Matt Furniss
Cabinet Member for Transport
15 December 2020

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