

Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No.15/17

Date: 7 November 2017

Briefing paper to: All Members of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Purpose:

At the meeting of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17 August 2017, it was agreed that a Briefing Note be provided on Highway Asset Management Band 3 Funding for Highways.

1. Background:

- 1.1 In December 2014, the Secretary of State of Transport announced that £6 billion will be made available between the years 2015/16 and 2020/21 for local highway maintenance capital funding. From this funding, £578 million has been set aside for an Incentive Fund scheme, to reward councils who demonstrate they are delivering value for money in carrying out cost effective improvements.
- 1.2 Local Highway Authorities (excluding London) shall be invited to complete a self-assessment questionnaire annually (January) to establish the share of the Incentive fund they will be eligible for each fiscal year. The incentive funding awarded to each Local Authority will be based on their score in this questionnaire and will be relative to the amount received through the needs-based funding formula.
- 1.3 The self-assessment questionnaire requires each Local Highway Authority to evaluate and score themselves against 22 questions. For each question, the Local Highway Authority enters a band rating between 1 and 3, 1 being the lowest and 3 being the highest. To secure Band 3 a Local Highway Authority needs to score a Band 3 on 18 of the 22 questions with questions 1, 2 and 5 being a mandatory Band 3 requirement.
- 1.4 For the last financial year (2016-17) there were 33 Band 3 Awards, 64 Band 2 Awards and 18 Band 1 Awards made by the Department of Transport.

2. Medway's Position

2.1 Since 2015/16 Medway Council has submitted a self-assessment score of Band 2. This has been based upon evidence we are able to gather against the 22 questions which is divided into the following sections:

- Asset Management
- Resilience
- Customer
- Benchmarking & efficiency
- Operational delivery

2.2 For 2016-17 the level of funding secured was £196K. If Medway had secured a Band 3 Award in 2016-17 it would have secured a funding award of £217K

2.3 To support securing a Band 3 submission this financial year Medway has entered into a collaborative Peer Review with Thurrock Council (who are also a Band 2 Local Highway Authority) . This Peer Review is underpinned through a consultant engagement (hosted by Thurrock Council) that is providing programme and critical friend support on the evidence tests to secure Band 3.

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