

Transport Improvements & Highways Maintenance Projects 2015/16 - 2024/25

Foreword

I am pleased to report the significant number of transport improvements and highways maintenance schemes undertaken over the last eight years across the borough. This report provides a summary of our capital expenditure on transport and highways projects from a range of funding sources.

A staggering £250m of grant funding has been awarded to Warrington up to 2024/25 so far, the majority of which has come from competitive funding bids, where we have invested in early design work to develop schemes which are value for money and ready to be built. This grant funding has then been used to deliver a range of major improvements including Warrington West Station, Centre Park Link and strategic cycle enhancements such as a new link to Burtonwood and major improvements along the Trans-Pennine Trail. Our Bus Service Improvement Plan has already brought in £17.4m of Government funding for improvements to bus services and infrastructure.

For every £1 the council has invested in major transport improvements we have brought in another £2 of investment from government and other sources.

Whilst there has been a number of major schemes delivered over the last eight years, there have been many more minor schemes delivered, including those delivered via £35m Local Transport Plan grant funding for themes such as active travel, network management, public transport and road safety. These smaller schemes are just as important to our transport vision and often valued more by residents in their local areas.

The vision set in LTP4 is to make Warrington a thriving, attractive, accessible and well-connected place with popular, high quality walking, cycling and public transport networks supporting our carbon-neutral future. This vision is at the forefront of the design and delivery of improvements large and small.


Alongside the investment in new schemes, we have invested heavily in the maintenance of our networks.

The report highlights the massive scale of investment we have made into the transport networks across our borough, an investment that will continue to deliver economic, environmental, and quality of life benefits to our residents, employees, and visitors over the coming years.

Councillor Hans Mundry
Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member
Highways, Transportation and Public Realm



WARRINGTON
Borough Council

Briefing for:	Cllr Hans Mundry, Executive Board Member for Highways, Transportation and Public Realm	WARRINGTON Borough Council 
Topic:	2015/16 - 2024/25 Transport Infrastructure Improvements and Highways Maintenance Projects	
Date:	January 2024	

1. PURPOSE

1.1. The note sets out the funding for transport improvements and maintenance spending from 2015/16 onwards. It includes:

- Major transport infrastructure schemes costing over £250,000.
- A summary of external funding obtained or anticipated from government departments and agencies.
- An overview of highway maintenance, structures, flood risk and street lighting programmes.
- A summary of the programmes of minor improvements and maintenance funded by the Local Transport Plan annual grant from the Department for Transport
- An overview of key study work carried out or in progress.

2. MAJOR TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENTS

2.1. Major transport improvements are typically funded by a mixture of:

- Council Borrowing
- Grant Funding
- Developer Funding

2.2. In the period from 2015/16 to 2024/25 the council has been successful in securing funding for a number of major transport improvement schemes, producing a package of transport improvement schemes costing approximately £128m (excluding Western Link).

2.3. Figure 1 provides a breakdown of how this funding is split, with each funding source described in more detail in Section 3. It can be seen how successful the authority has been in securing external funding, with almost three quarters of funding for major schemes coming from Government Grants and developer contributions. Table 1 overleaf provide details of the major schemes delivered and in development since 2015/16.

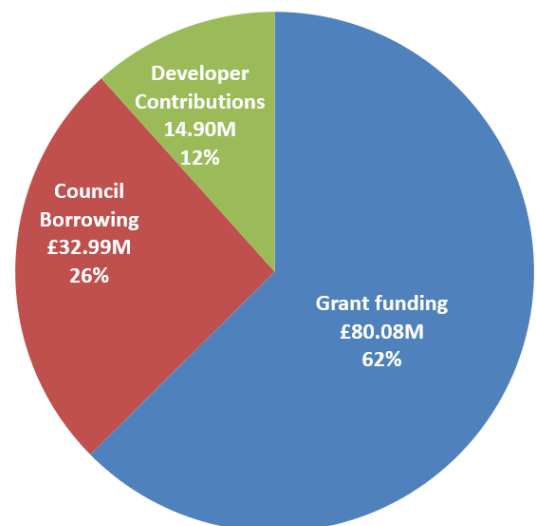


Figure 1 - Major Transport Improvements Funding Split

Table 1 – Major Transport Infrastructure Schemes 2015/16 onwards*

Scheme	Ward	Status	Scheme Cost** (£m)	Grant/LTP funding (£m)	Council Borrowing (£m)	Private sector/ Developer (£m)
Birchwood Pinchpoint Highway Improvements	Birchwood	Complete	£4.99	£2.14	£1.75	£1.10
Centre Park Link	Bewsey & Whitecross, Latchford West	Complete	£20.32	£13.19	£7.13	£0.00
M62 J8 Junction Improvements	Burtonwood & Winwick, Westbrook	Complete	£10.92	£7.79	£1.27	£1.86
Warrington West Rail Station	Chapelford & Old Hall	Complete	£21.46	£11.28	£8.33	£1.85
Warrington West Cycle Accessibility	Great Sankey North & Whittle Hall	Complete	£0.47	£0.35	£0.12	£0.00
Warrington East Phase 2 A -A574 Highway Improvements	Birchwood, Poulton North	Complete	£10.09	£5.53	£4.56	£0.00
Warrington East Phase 3 - A574 Highway Improvements	Birchwood	Complete	£7.02	£5.37	£1.65	£0.00
Omega Local Highways Phase 1 - Lingley Green Avenue/Omega Boulevard/The Hub junction improvements	Great Sankey North & Whittle Hall	Complete	£3.68	£2.64	£0.00	£1.04
Burtonwood to Omega Shared Use Path	Burtonwood & Winwick	Complete	£1.20	£0.95	£0.00	£0.25
Chester Road Cycle Route	Latchford West	Complete	£1.44	£0.40	£1.04	£0.00
TPT Improvements	Latchford West, Latchford East	Complete	£0.56	£0.35	£0.21	£0.00
Omega Local Highways Phase 2A/3A - Burtonwood Road southbound widening and Kingswood Junction	Burtonwood & Winwick and Westbrook	Complete	£4.28	£2.09	£0.24	£1.95
Omega Local Highways Phase 3B	Great Sankey North & Whittle Hall and Chapelford & Old Hall	Complete	£2.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2.00
Omega Local Highways Phase 3C	Burtonwood & Winwick and Westbrook and Chapelford & Old Hall	In development	£4.25	£0.00	£0.00	£4.25

Scheme	Ward	Status	Scheme Cost ** (£m)	Grant/LTP funding (£m)	Council Borrowing (£m)	Private sector/ Developer (£m)
Omega Local Highways Phase 2B - A57/Lingley Green Avenue junction improvements	Great Sankey North & Whittle Hall and Penketh & Cuerdley	Complete	£2.02	£2.02	£0.00	£0.00
Warrington Multi Modal Transport Model	Borough-wide	Ongoing	£1.20	£0.00	£1.20	£0.00
M62 J9 Signals Renewal	Burtonwood & Winwick, Poplars & Hulme	Complete	£0.64	£0.64	£0.00	£0.00
Chester Road/Ackers Road Junction Improvement	Stockton Heath	Complete	£0.38	£0.38	£0.00	£0.00
The Hub - Lingley Green Avenue/ Great Sankey Neighbourhood access	Great Sankey North & Whittle Hall	Complete	£0.25	£0.00	£0.25	£0.00
Burtonwood Environmental Improvements	Burtonwood & Winwick	Complete	£1.18	£0.00	£0.58	£0.60
Birchwood Station Footbridge Improvements - Access for All	Birchwood	Complete	£0.50	£0.00	£0.50	£0.00
Westbrook to Dallam footpath/cycleway	Westbrook	Complete	£0.45	£0.45	£0.00	£0.00
A56 Walton Daresbury footway cycleway	Appleton	Complete	£0.65	£0.65	£0.00	£0.00
BSIP	Orford and Bewsey and Whitecross	In development	£12.50	£9.89	£2.61	£0.00
Warrington Town Deal	Various	In development	£6.38	£6.18	£0.21	£0.00
Lovely Lane Cyclops		Complete	£0.93	£0.76	£0.17	£0.00
Levelling up 2	Various	In development	£7.00	£6.20	£0.80	£0.00
TPT Improvements Lymm	Lymm North and Thelwall	Complete	£1.23	£0.84	£0.39	£0.00
Total			£127.98	£80.08	£32.99	£14.90

* Individual improvement schemes over £250,000 in cost, excludes Warrington Western Link

** Figures are rounded and include allowance for retention/outstanding works as required

2.4. We are currently waiting for the outcome of a DfT review post the publication of ‘Network North’ which is expected to include additional funding for schemes such as Warrington Western Link which have been affected by cost increases related to inflation in construction costs. We are also expecting allocations for a new DfT funding stream from 25/26 to be announced called the Local Integrated Transport Settlement (LITS).

3. FUNDING BIDS TO GOVERNMENT AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

3.1. The Council has successfully bid for £250m funding from Government via various funding competitions to support individual and packages of schemes. A summary of the types of funding awarded is given in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – Sources of Grant Funding*

<p>Local Growth Funding (round 1) - In June 2013 the government announced that Local Enterprise Partnerships were to enter into negotiations for funding from a new pot of devolved government funds namely the Local Growth Fund (LGF). The Council entered successful bids for part-funding (£18.670m) of the following schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centre Park Link, £5.30m – Complete • M62 J8, £5.00m - Complete • Birchwood Pinchpoint, £2.14m - Complete • Warrington West Rail Station, £6.53m Complete
<p>Local Growth Funding (round 3) - In December 2016, the council submitted a number of potential major transport schemes to the Local Enterprise Partnership to request funding from a further round of Local Growth funding. From this submission, the council was successful in securing funding (£12.85m) for three packages of schemes, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warrington East Phase 2 and 3, £6.90m – Complete • Omega Local Highways Phase 1, £4.30m – Complete • Warrington Sustainable Travel (Access Fund), £1.65m – Complete
<p>Growth and Housing Fund – Funding announced by Highways England for schemes on the Strategic Road Network that unlock homes and jobs. £3m was secured from Highways England to part-fund improvements to M62 Junction 8.</p>
<p>New Stations Fund - A £20m fund from Network Rail towards the cost of building new stations to help give local communities improved access to rail services in England and Wales. The Council submitted a successful bid to this fund and received £4.23m towards Warrington West Rail Station.</p>
<p>National Productivity Investment Funding (NPIF) - On 13th January 2017 the government announced a new fund for schemes which boost national productivity. The funding is specifically intended for local transport improvements which aim to reduce congestion at key locations, upgrade or improve the maintenance of local highway assets and therefore help to improve access to employment and housing, and to develop economic and job creation opportunities. The Council successfully bid for funding in 2017/18 (£0.77m) and 2018/19 (£7.36m) to contribute to the following schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B5356 Stretton Road Maintenance scheme, £0.34m - Complete

- A57 Liverpool Road/Whittle Ave Junction Improvement, £0.18m - Complete
- M62 J9 and Delph Lane Junction Improvement, £0.25m - Complete
- Warrington East Phase 3, £4.00m – Complete
- Burtonwood Southbound Widening (Omega Local Highways Phase 2A), £2.09m - Complete
- A57 Liverpool Road/Lingley Green Ave, £1.27m - Complete

Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF)- The HIF is a government capital grant programme of up to £2.3 billion, for new physical infrastructure which will unlock sites in the areas of greatest housing demand and help to deliver up to 100,000 new homes in England. £3.69m was awarded to the Council to support Centre Park Link following submission of a successful bid in 2017.

Town Deal – The Town Investment Plan was submitted with a shortlist of 7 potential projects and a total ask of DLUHC of £26.56m. DLUHC announced on the 27th October 2020 that Warrington was successful in its bid for the Towns Fund with an award of £22.10m, and an additional £1m Accelerated Fund towards the Bus Depot which was in an advanced stage of delivery

The Sustainable Travel Programme consisted of a number of schemes as outlined below:

Scheme	Description	Scheme Budget
Sankey Street gateway	Improvements to Sankey Street in the vicinity of the Town Hall to make the area more accessible and appealing for walking and cycling	£1,500,000
Accessibility improvements	Package of interventions within the Town Centre such as dropped kerbs and removal of street clutter to improve accessibility.	£283,500
Wayfinding improvements	Package of wayfinding improvements to help residents and visitors navigate their way around the town centre to/from key destinations such as the cultural quarter.	£140,000
TPT upgrade – South of Greenalls Ave	Creation of a widened tarmac path to replace the existing narrow unsurfaced mud path to increase the accessibility of the path in all conditions.	£560,000
Kingsway Bridge area improvements	Package of improvements to the bridge crossing, junction treatments and pedestrian crossings	£900,000
Bewsey Road – Sankey Valley to Town Centre	Creation of a cycle corridor including improvements for pedestrians	£900,000
Wilderspool Causeway Bus Priority Corridor	Creation of a bus priority corridor including implementation of a southbound bus lane towards Stockton Health and improvements to walking and cycling facilities	£1,431,500
Community Cycle Hub	Cycle Hub to include repair workshop, dissemination of cycling information and secure cycle parking	£300,000
Cardinal Newman 3G pitch	Implementation of a full size 3G pitch at Cardinal Newman High School and drainage improvements to two existing grass pitches.	£960,000
	Total	£6,975,000

Zebra – The council submitted a successful funding bid for ZEBRA (Zero Emission Bus Regional Area) funding to Government with a proposal for a fleet of electric buses in Warrington. The DfT awarded over £20m to the Council to support the replacement of Warrington’s Own Buses entire fleet of diesel buses with 105 new electric buses. The electric buses will introduce greener and cleaner transport options throughout Warrington and will come into service during 2024.

Active Travel Fund (ATF)

Since 2019/20 the Council has been successful in attracting a total of £2.62m additional funding for active travel projects from Active Travel England. These include temporary active travel measures in response to the Covid pandemic, traffic management measures within Warrington Town Centre, localised area wide traffic management measures in Westy, and the Lovely Lane CyClops junction. Planned work includes improvements to the Bewsey Road/Froghall Lane junction.

Active Travel Capability Fund

Since 2020/21 Active Travel England has awarded a total of £454,749 revenue grant to Warrington Borough Council to improve our capability for delivering active travel projects and to support behavioural change projects.

Sustrans National Cycle Network Funding

Sustrans is a national charity for walking and cycling and manages a funding programme on behalf of the DfT to upgrade the national cycle network (NCN). Following two successful bids, Warrington Borough Council has secured £728,692 of grant to help fund improvements to over 1.5km of the NCN route 62 - otherwise known as the Trans Pennine Trail – near Lymm.

Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) – The Government’s National Bus Strategy published in March 2021 (Bus Back Better), required each local authority in England outside of London to develop a Bus Service Improvement Plan. The Council duly produced its first BSIP at the end of October 2021 and then updated it in October 2022.

This BSIP set out a range of measures to improve all aspects of bus services including: provision of additional / higher frequency services, reduced fares and better ticketing and the need for buses to be given greater priority to speed up their journey times making them more reliable and punctual. The aim being to generate significant increases in the frequency of services and numbers of passengers using the bus network in Warrington.

In April 2022, the Department for Transport (DfT) awarded the Council £16.20m (of which £9.90m is capital and £6.3m is revenue). The £9.9m capital funding is allocated to bus priority and complementary active travel infrastructure improvements along the A49 Winwick Road/A50 Long Lane. The revenue allocation is being used to enhance and deliver new bus services.

A further £1.2m of additional BSIP funding for the 2024/25 financial year has been announced. This is the first year of a 5 year allocation. We are awaiting details of the allocations for the subsequent 4 years from 2026/27 onwards. These monies will be spent on measures to improve all aspects of bus services.

DfT Large Local Majors (LLM) Fund - The LLM programme was set up in 2016 to cater for the small number of exceptionally large local highway authority transport schemes that could not be funded through the normal routes, such as Local Growth Fund or other devolved allocations. £142.5m has been awarded to the Council conditional on the approval of a Major Scheme Business Case for Warrington Westernn Link.

A second round of funding for this programme is expected following the Network North announcement (see below)

Network North – On 4th October the Government announced the cancellation of HS2 Phases 2a (Birmingham to Crewe) and Phase 2B – Crewe to Manchester and published its revised plan, Network North which sets out where it is intended to reinvest monies saved by not proceeding with HS2 apart from its first phase from London Euston to Birmingham. The publication of this combined with that of the Plan for Drivers, which was issued on the 2nd October represents a substantial shift in national transport policy.

Warrington is expected to receive a share of the re-invested monies as follows:

- An announcement that of the monies saved from cancelling HS2, some £12bn will be invested to build Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) from Liverpool to Manchester – this is planned to include a new Warrington Bank Quay Low Level Station where this NPR line crosses the West Coast Main Line.
- The provision of additional funding for the main roads’ programmes for local roads, namely the Large Local Majors and Major Road Network programme, both for existing schemes in this programme which includes the Warrington Western Link and a planned launch of a second round of funding for this programme.
- The creation of a new long term funding settlement (referred to as Local Integrated Transport Settlement – LITS) for Local Transport Authorities outside the city regions. In the North of England some £2.5bn is to be allocated across 14 local transport authorities. Details of the amounts are expected to be confirmed in the near future.

Additional monies for highways maintenance. Initially, in November 2023 £507,000 was awarded for both 23/24 and 24/25, with announcements on future years spending expected in due course.

Leveling Up Round 2 – Warrington North Reconnecting the settlements

The Warrington North LU2 bid consisted of three packages with the joint aim of improving the active travel connections between the settlements of Burtonwood, Winwick and Culcheth and the urban area of Warrington.

The Burtonwood package also included an ambitious plan to upgrade the existing community sports facilities at the Recreation Ground and at the Community Centre.

The total value of the combined bid was £10.4m with £9.4m being sought from the Levelling Up Fund.

DfT Challenge Fund - The purpose of the fund is to enable local highway authorities in England to bid for major maintenance projects that are otherwise difficult to fund through the usual formula needs element allocations they receive from government. £2.98m was awarded in 2019/20 and £2.27m in 2020/21.

From 2019/20 this fund was awarded directly to local authorities negating the need for bidding for a share of the funding. In 2020/21 this funding became the Pothole Fund.

Additional Maintenance Funding – The Pothole Fund (originally the DfT Challenge Fund), from 2022/23 this was added to the budgets of the Maintenance Teams to allow additional repairs and schemes to be delivered. This funding was split across routine maintenance, roads maintenance (surfacing), footway maintenance and bridges and structures.

Environment Agency Flood Defence Grant In Aid (FDGIA) is funding from central government for managing flood risk in England. Officers produce and submit scheme specific business cases to Environment Agency to apply for this funding. Schemes put forward need to demonstrate they are good value for money and will reduce flood risk in accordance with National Targets. £2.15m has been awarded from this fund since 2015/16.

**Original funding allocations*

4. HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE

4.1. Warrington has approximately 1137km of roads with a value of approximately £744 million. The Council launched a £40m maintenance investment programme in 2015 allocated as follows:

- £27.5M – strategic road network (A, B and C roads)
- £10M – side streets and unclassified roads improvement programme
- £2.5M – footway improvement programme

4.2. The full budget spend was achieved in 2022-23 and allowed 269 unclassified road schemes and 206 footway schemes to be delivered.

4.3. A further £9m programme of investment in the highway network with a 60%/40% split in favour of the footway network has been approved. Extensive consultation with ward members has taken place to identify schemes to be delivered in each Ward and a programme for delivery is being developed from 2024/25 for 3 to 4 years.

4.4. Table 3 overleaf presents the major highways maintenance schemes delivered over the last 8 years.

Challenge Fund

4.5. The successful challenge fund bid in 2018 allowed a number of major resurfacing and bridge works schemes to be delivered in 2019/20. These included:

- A49 Northbound (A574 Cromwell Ave to M62)
- A50 Kingsway South (Thelwall Lane to Swing Bridge)
- A49 Longford Bridge/Culvert
- A49 Winwick Link Road (Myddleton Lane Bridge to M62)
- A57 Manchester Road / M6 Junction 21 East Roundabout
- A49 Winwick Road Northbound (Fire Station to Hawley's Lane)
- A562 Warrington Road, Penketh Westbound (Whittle Brook to Hall Nook)
- A56 Stockport Road (Thelwall Viaduct to Lymm Road)
- A57/A49 Cockhedge Green Roundabout
- Lovely Lane (A57 Pink Eye Roundabout to Bewsey Road) (this scheme was delivered in Summer 2021 due to Covid Restrictions)

Table 3 – Major Maintenance Schemes Delivered between 2015/16-2023/24

Scheme	Ward
Culcheth Green Field Drainage Improvements	Culcheth, Glazebury & Croft
Froghall Lane & Priestley Street	Bewsey & Whitecross
Liverpool Road & St. Mary's Road	Penketh & Cuerdley
M62/A49 Roundabout	Burtonwood & Winwick, Poplars & Hulme
King Edward Street, Padgate Ln & Orford Rd	Fairfield & Howley, Poulton South
Whitbarrow Road	Lymm North & Thelwall
Higher Knutsford Road	Grappenhall
Marsh House Lane	Fairfield & Howley
Stretton Road	Appleton, Grappenhall
Sankey Way	Great Sankey South, Penketh & Cuerdley
Bridgefoot	Bewsey & Whitecross, Fairfield & Howley, Latchford West
Liverpool Road	Penketh & Cuerdley
Padgate Lane	Fairfield & Howley
A57 Manchester Road-M6 Junction 21	Rixton & Woolston
Thelwall Lane	Latchford East
South Lane & Farnworth Road	Penketh & Cuerdley
Cromwell Avenue & Calver Road	Bewsey & Whitecross, Poplars & Hulme
London Road	Stockton Heath
Holcroft Lane	Culcheth, Glazebury & Croft
Lythgoes lane & Winwick Road	Bewsey & Whitecross, Fairfield & Howley, Orford
A56 Chester Road	Appleton
Poplars Avenue	Poplars & Hulme
Parker Street	Bewsey & Whitecross
Jubilee Way	Orford

Scheme	Ward
Knutsford Road Inbound	Latchford West
Kingsway South	Latchford East
Barleycastle Lane & Grappenhall Lane	Grappenhall
Whitefield Road	Stockton Heath
Runcorn Road	Appleton
Europa Boulevard	Westbrook
Brick Street/Fennel Street	Bewsey & Whitecross, Fairfield & Howley
Pennington Lane	Burtonwood & Winwick
Walton Road/Walton New Road	Stockton Heath
Clayton Road & Leacroft Road	Birchwood
Hood Lane & Canons Road	Great Sankey South
Kingsway North	Fairfield & Howley
Broad Lane	Burtonwood & Winwick
Watery Lane & Mill Lane	Burtonwood & Winwick
Orford Lane	Fairfield & Howley, Orford
Warrington Road, Glazebury	Culcheth, Glazebury & Croft
A49 NB (A574 Cromwell Ave to M62)	Poplars & Hulme
A49 Winwick Link Road (Myddleton Lane Bridge to M62)	Burtonwood & Winwick
A57 Manchester Road / M6 Junction 21 East Roundabout	Rixton & Woolston
A49 Winwick Road Northbound (Fire Station to Hawley's Lane)	Bewsey & Whitecross
A562 Warrington Road, Penketh (Whittle Brook to Hall Nook)	Penketh & Cuerdley
A57/A49 Cockhedge Green Roundabout	Bewsey & Whitecross, Fairfield & Howley
Stockport Road (A50 to Bell Lane)	Grappenhall & Thelwall
Cromwell Avenue Roundabouts	Chapelford and Old Hall

Pothole Fund

- 4.6. The Council received £1.20m from the DfT Pothole Action Fund. This funding has been awarded to the maintenance teams which allows the authority to carryout additional preventative pothole maintenance, completing larger scale patching repairs, additional road footway surfacing schemes, highway bridge and structure repairs and the introduction of a “Find & Fix It” maintenance team.
- 4.7. The Government announced Warrington to receive £1.77m/year for potholes between 2022-25.

Flood Risk

- 4.8. Over the last 8 years 30 projects at a cost of £2.15m have been delivered to mitigate flooding. These projects have been funded via Environment Agency Flood Defence Grant in Aid, DfT Maintenance Incentive funding, United Utilities and Council investment.
- 4.10 Two collaborative projects have also been undertaken between WBC and United Utilities, approximate value of these schemes was £400,000. These schemes are critical to reduce the level of flood risk to a significant number of properties across the borough. For example, Dallam Brook Pumping Station commissioned in 2021 at a cost of approx. £500,000 reduces flood risk to 49 properties in the vicinity of Densham Avenue.
- 4.11 The Engineering and Flood Risk Team have been involved with the Penketh and Whittle Scheme reducing flood risk to approximately 220 houses and the £34m Warrington Flood Defence Scheme which reduces flood risk to over 2000 properties.
- 4.12 Going forward, the Engineering and Flood Risk Team are currently progressing a number of schemes including Grant Close and Woolston Park. The Engineering and Flood Risk Team will continue to work in collaboration with our partners Environment Agency and United Utilities.
- 4.13 The Council are also collaborating with the Environment Agency on progressing the Sankey Flood Risk Management Scheme. The project aims to reduce the flood risk to over 580 homes and businesses from Sankey Brook, Dallam Brook and Longford Brook. Key areas include Sankey Bridges, Dallam, Bewsey and Callands. The scheme is in the early design stages and is scheduled to commence in 2027.

Bridges/Structures

- 4.14 As part of DfT Local Transport Plan funding (described in Section 5 below), £5.50m has been used to deliver 49 bridges and structures improvements since 2015/16. A selection of schemes is listed in Table 4 below.
- 4.15 By undertaking bi-annual General Inspections (GI) to track the deteriorating condition of 393 bridges a works programme for the next 30 years is identified, a 5-year Work Bank to undertake appropriate strengthening and repairs to make the bridges safe to use, fit for purpose and well maintained to appropriate standards.
- 4.16 Bridge strengthening of highway bridges to reduce the impact of weight limits is essential. UK Bridges / ADEPT Bridges at national and regional level is seeking works to be executed. It is essential to prioritise and strengthen council owned highway bridges over railway lines along the Freight and Abnormal Load route in Warrington to connect to neighbouring Councils and the National Highways Heavy and High Load route.
- 4.17 The General Inspections carried out also includes Parks, Public Right of Way Bridges, to assess data and to determine a list of defects and suggested projects for the delegated officers to execute with

additional funding found via the LTP Steering Group to either widen a footbridge to a cycle/footway or improve drainage to appropriate standards.

4.18 The key risks:

- Lack of funding.
- Highway Structures and other Bridge Assets fall below Serviceable levels measures by the Life. Cycle Plan and Bridge Condition performance indicator.
- Increased claims to the Council.
- Damage to reputation.
- Injury and death

4.19 A further £378k per year for the next four years will allow 9 bridges and structures to be improved from 1st April 2024. The schemes are listed in Table 5 below.

Table 4 – Major Bridge Maintenance Schemes

Sample of Schemes Delivered between 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2024

Scheme	Ward	Scheme	Ward
Stocks Lane Bridge	Great Sankey South	Sankey Station Bridge	Great Sankey South
Minor Bridge Maintenance Works	Lymm North & Thelwall	Lymm Canal Bridge	Lymm
Dane Bank Bridge Safety Barrier	Penketh & Cuerdley	Latchford High Level Bridge Safety Barrier Works	Latchford East and Latchford West
Culvert Special Investigation Works	Poulton North and South	Toll Bar Footbridge and Safety Barriers	Poplars & Hulme
Principle Inspections	Stockton Heath	Dam Head Lane Bridge	Rixton and Woolston
		Cruciform Footbridge	Westbrook

Table 5 – Major Bridge Maintenance Schemes

Proposed Schemes between 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2028

Scheme	Ward	Scheme	Ward
Padgate Railway Bridge Refurbishment	Poulton North and South	Abnormal Load Route Highway Bridges Principal Inspection / Structural Review / Assessment Reports	Various
Barrow Hall Lane Footbridge Widening	Great Sankey South, Penketh & Cuerdley	Red Lane Footbridge Refurbishment	Stockton Heath
Carlton Way Footbridge Refurbishment	Rixton and Woolston	Red House Footbridge Scour Protection Works	Burtonwood & Winwick
Howley Suspension Bridge Refurbishment	Latchford West	Gatewarth Vehicular Bridge Refurbishment	Bewsey & Whitecross
Slutchers Lane Railway Bridge Repairs	Bewsey & Whitecross		

Street Lighting Invest to Save

4.20 The street lighting investment project has seen the replacement of 19,000 lighting columns/lanterns and a further 7600 lanterns upgraded using £18m of Council borrowing. The outcome from this project has been:

- The introduction of LED lighting units with a Central Management System that provides the authority with the ability to remotely monitor, vary lighting levels, report actual operating times and the flexibility to respond to changes in policy decisions. This system has proven invaluable in achieving the current reduction in energy consumption, carbon emissions and the accurate reporting of it.
- The project has delivered an improved age profile of the street lighting column assets mitigating the risk of structural failure.

4.21 Whilst the wholesale cost of energy has risen the authority has seen an overall reduction in its annual energy consumption against an increase in assets from private developments and local highway improvement schemes.

4.22 The second phase with a budget of £6m of Council borrowing has commenced that includes the replacement of life expired cable networks feeder pillar and the replacement/upgrading of Street Lighting on footpaths within parks is due to commence in 2023/24 over a three-year period.

LTP Street Lighting Improvements (Highways Maintenance Block)

4.23 In addition to the above Invest to Save project from council borrowing, £3m of street lighting improvements have been delivered since 2015/16 via DfT highways maintenance Local Transport Plan funding that has enabled the de-illumination and replacement of traffic signs, illuminated bollards and the continuation of column replacements as they reach their end of life, in order to maintain a steady state of replacement.

5. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

5.1. In addition to the grant funding detailed in Table 2, the Council received £1.494m Integrated Transport Block funding and a minimum of £2.571m Highways Maintenance Block from the DfT annually from 2015/16 to 2020/21 to support the delivery of capital schemes less than £5m. Between 2022/23 and 2024/25 the allocation changed to £1.51m for the Integrated Transport Block and £1.77m Highways Maintenance Block. A breakdown of how this funding has been spent is provided in Table 6 overleaf.

5.2. In December 2014, the Government announced that £6 billion was being made available between 2015/16 and 2020/21 for local highways maintenance capital funding. From that funding, £578m has been set aside for Incentive Fund schemes, to reward councils who demonstrate they are delivering value for money in carrying out cost effective improvements. The Council has received £535,000, the maximum award annually between 2018/19 and 2020/21. This funding has been used to deliver numerous maintenance schemes and has been integrated within the LTP programme. The allocation between 2021/22 and 2024/25 is £443,000.

Table 6 – ITB and HMB Expenditure by Theme 2015/16-2023/24

Theme	Year							
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2022/23	2023/24
Integrated Transport Block								
Active Travel	£986,494	£501,381	£199,696	£311,309	£434,675	£350,000	£353,000	£353,000
LTP Studies	£180,824	£172,680	£197,763	£157,575	£214,125	£129,000	£130,000	£130,000
Network Management	£352,847	£254,820	£536,017	£674,376	£399,658	£315,000	£317,000	£317,000
Public Transport	£291,031	£75,886	£36,076	£39,682	£29,736	£60,000	£60,000	£60,000
Safety and Security	£898,884	£560,716	£485,230	£599,855	£572,793	£575,000	£579,000	£579,000
Smarter Choices	£128,509	£156,722	£138,306	£118,269	£169,116	£40,000	£40,000	£40,000
Cleaner Fuels					£6,639	£15,000	£15,000	£15,000
Freight					£704	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
Sub-total	£2,838,590	£1,722,205	£1,593,088	£1,901,066	£1,827,446	£1,494,000	£1,505,000	£1,505,000
Highways Maintenance Block								
Street Lighting	£487,807	£458,410	£441,997	£194,808	£349,917	£398,000	£343,000	£343,000
Bridge Maintenance	£768,418	£783,917	£512,373	£558,458	£349,683	£438,000	£378,000	£378,000
Road Maintenance	£1,441,000	£1,296,241	£1,523,250	£1,588,694	£1,386,578	£1,368,000	£1,179,000	£1,179,000
Footpath & cycleway maintenance	£145,311	£264,000	£250,727	£231,486	£237,768	£231,000	£199,000	£199,000
Traffic Signals maintenance	£314,585	£168,668	£109,344	£51,162	£236,915	£121,000	£104,000	£104,000
Bus stop maintenance	£30,303	£6,722	£4,144	£5,071	£19,437	£15,000	£13,000	£13,000
Sub-total	£3,187,423	£2,977,959	£2,841,835	£2,629,679	£2,580,298	£2,571,000	£2,216,000	£2,216,000
Total	£6,026,013	£4,700,164	£4,434,923	£4,530,745	£4,407,744	£4,065,000	£3,721,000	£3,721,000

Note: Figures include grant and additional funding from other sources such as funding competitions

6. DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

6.1. In addition to the major schemes presented in Section 1 above, study work has been ongoing to help inform future scheme bids and support delivery programmes. Funding to undertake this study work has come from a range of sources including the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership and Active Travel England, with funding also having been supplemented by Council borrowing on occasions where match funding is required. The delivery of the schemes arising from the work has subsequently been subject to consultation and then securing the funding for implementation. Table 7 details key studies currently underway, planned, or complete.

Table 7 – Current/Recently Completed Studies

Study	Description	Update
First & Last Mile - Town Centre Transport Masterplan	A Transport Masterplan for the Warrington Last Mile Project with the aim of providing high quality and fit for purpose active travel and public transport infrastructure.	Study complete. Used to obtain Towns Fund and Active Travel Funding from Government
First & Last Mile Ph 2 - East & West Gateways	Develop proposals for improvements at the A49 Mersey St/Dial St roundabout and Parker St/A5061 (Liverpool Rd) junction.	Specification for study in development. Study work planned for 2024
Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)	Warrington’s LTP4 includes target to more than treble cycling and walking over the next 20 years. Study to develop the key corridors concepts into deliverable transformational schemes.	Study complete. Used to obtain Towns Fund and Active Travel and Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) funding from Government.
Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR)	Warrington is a Significant Economic Centre on the NPR route. This study made the strategic economic case for this station to be in the centre of Warrington.	Study complete. Town Centre station confirmed in Integrated Rail Plan by Government.
Mass Transit/ Bus Priority/Bus Strategy	Warrington’s LTP4, contains target to triple use of public transport over the next 20 years. The study investigated the options available to deliver this outcome, ranging from priority for conventional bus, through Guided Bus to Light Rail.	Study largely complete. Findings inform successful bids for BSIP and Zero Emissions Bus Regional Area from government.