

Department for Transport - Local Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund 2017

Northumberland County Council in partnership with the North East Combined Authority (NECA) have submitted an application for monies from the DfT through the Local Highway Maintenance Challenge Fund. If successful, this will be used to repair and strengthen a number of key roads that underpin the rural and regional economy particularly timber extraction, quarrying and key tourist destinations.

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 local transport capital allocations. In this latest tranche £75 million has been made available with funding capped at one bid an Authority and each eligible to submit a bid for up to £5 million.

The submitted bid is seeking £5 million funding to address approximately 24 km of poor condition roads, The County Council would also provide £1.5 million of new capital funding to support the delivery of this scheme. This represents a 30% match funding and demonstrates the Council's high level of commitment and support to this regionally and nationally important highway improvement scheme.

Works would be carried out principally on identified sections of the C200 Kielder, C205 Stonehaugh loop road and the C172, Whittingham to Netherton road. Investing in these roads now will enable growth of the timber industry and maintain routes open for residents and tourists. Our future maintenance costs will reduce and enable us to manage the routes using life cycle planning principles.