



Agenda Item

FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER DECISION - INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

14 October 2021

Report of the Executive Director - Place

**Approval of Grant Monies Received – Department for Transport
Capability Fund**

1. Divisions Affected

1.1 County-wide.

2. Key Decision

2.1 This is not a Key Decision.

3. Purpose

3.1 To seek Cabinet Member approval for the receipt of grant funding from the Department for Transport (DfT), as part of its Capability Fund allocation to Derbyshire County Council.

4. Information and Analysis

4.1 On 3 March 2021, the DfT provided details of local and combined authorities' active travel revenue funding allocations for 2021-22 under a new Local Authority Capability Fund. This new Local Authority Capability Fund has replaced the Access Fund of previous years and Derbyshire's allocation is £238,031.

4.2 This Fund supports the commitment made in *Gear Change*, the Government's Cycling and Walking Plan released in July 2020, and is

primarily aimed at increasing the capabilities of local authorities to plan good active travel infrastructure, including building more expertise and undertaking more evidence-based planning. Given the evidence that it is more effective to develop both behaviour change and infrastructure projects, rather than either one in isolation, the Capability Fund will also support traditional behaviour change initiatives where linked to improvements in infrastructure.

- 4.3 Each local authority was required to submit an application detailing how this revenue funding would be spent. Derbyshire County Council's application focused on the commissioning of a series of feasibility studies that, when implemented, would help develop, and inform, future behaviour change and infrastructure projects associated with the Council's approved Key Cycle Network and (across the wider D2N2 (Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire) geography) Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).
- 4.4 A total of six feasibility studies will be undertaken as follows, and will be carried out by Aecom under the terms of the Council's Framework Agreement:
 1. Work Package (WP) 1: Access to Public Transport Interchanges – How these can be integrated with cycling and walking networks.
 2. WP2: High Peak Triangle (E-bike Hire Provision) – Concentrating in and around the Peak District National Park.
 3. WP3: Derbyshire Mobility Hub – A one stop shop web portal bringing together sustainable and active travel information in one place.
 4. WP4: North Derbyshire Cycle Culture – Promoting the existing cycle network in the area to large and small – medium enterprise (SME) employers.
 5. WP5: Travel Planning for Jobseekers – Working with Job Centres in the Chesterfield area to provide personalised journey planning information and incentives to job seekers.
 6. WP6: Cycle Training – Offering cycle training and maintenance sessions to a targeted group of adults and children.
- 4.6 Monitoring and evaluation of all the above work packages will be undertaken and conform with DfT requirements.
- 4.7 Notification that the Council's application was successful was received on 31 July 2021, with confirmation that the DfT would run the project for a 12 month period, i.e. to 31 July 2022.
- 4.8 Whilst funding has yet to be received, the DfT Grant Determination Letter can be seen under Appendix 2 to this report.

5. Consultation

5.1 Not applicable.

6. Alternative Options Considered

6.1 **Option 1** - Do nothing and not apply for this funding allocation but this would result in the necessary outcomes not being achieved.

6.2 **Option 2** – Undertake feasibility studies utilising ‘in-house’ resources. This option was discounted due to capacity concerns.

7. Implications

7.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

8. Background Papers

8.1 DfT Grant Determination Letter.

8.2 Letter to Local Authorities detailing Active Travel Revenue Funding Allocations for 2021-22.

8.3 DfT Grant Award Letter.

9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1- Implications.

9.2 Appendix 2 – DfT Grant Determination Letter.

9.3 Appendix 3 - Letter to Local Authorities detailing Active Travel Revenue Funding Allocations for 2021-22.

9.4 Appendix 4 – DfT Grant Award Letter.

10. Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member approves:

- a) The receipt of grant monies totalling £238,031 from the Department for Transport as part of its Capability Fund.

- b) Agrees to receive a future report detailing the outcome of the feasibility studies detailed above.

11. Reasons for Recommendations

- 11.1 To enable the grant monies to be allocated in accordance with the pricing schedule associated with the six feasibility studies detailed above and to satisfy internal audit procedures.
- 11.2 To demonstrate funding has been allocated correctly and has delivered value for money in accordance with Section 151 Officer commitments.

12. Is it necessary to waive the call in period?

- 12.1 No

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This report has been approved by the following officers:

<p>On behalf of:</p> <p>Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer Director of Finance and ICT Managing Executive Director Executive Director(s)</p>	
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Implications

Financial

- 1.1 The grant is awarded on the understanding that the Council will deliver the objectives as set out in its Capability Fund bid.
- 1.2 Future Government Spending Rounds are subject to evidence showing good performance in delivery. This means that poor or non-delivery of bid objectives for this Capability Fund may have an impact on the funding the Council receives in future. This includes adherence to LTN1/20 and other good practice for any network planning or design activities undertaken with this funding.

Legal

- 2.1 Contract terms are in accordance with existing Framework Agreement conditions with the preferred provider, Aecom.

Human Resources

- 3.1 Individual officers assigned as key contacts for each of the 6 individual work packages and will work in alignment with the dedicated project team assigned by Aecom. The Senior Project Officer – Sustainable Travel is designated Project Manager for the Council assisted by a small internal project group.

Information Technology

- 4.1 None.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 None.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 6.1 This work will inform future delivery of key objectives contained within the LCWIP. It will also contribute to the key manifesto pledge to prioritise completing key cycling routes in Derbyshire such as the White Peak Loop and support the delivery of the Council's unique Key Cycle Network to deliver the country's most ambitious off-road cycle network for work and recreation

Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)

- 7.1 N/a