



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

15 June 2023

Report of the Executive Director - Place

**Acceptance of the Active Travel Tranche 4 Funding from the Department
for Transport**

(Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Environment)

1. Divisions Affected

1.1 County-wide.

2. Key Decision

2.1 This is a key decision because it is likely to result in the Council incurring expenditure or savings which are significant, having regards to the budget for the service or function concerned (this is currently defined as £500,000).

3. Purpose

3.1 To seek Cabinet approval to accept the Active Travel Tranche 4 grant for £3,005,000 awarded by Active Travel England on the behalf of the Department for Transport.

4. Information and Analysis

4.1 A report to the Cabinet Member Infrastructure and Environment on 16 March 2023, provided a detailed update on the progress taken to accelerate development of the County's Key Cycle Network (KCN) and strategic approach to sustainable travel. The report included updates on key projects, development of the Joint Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham

and Nottinghamshire (D2N2) Local Walking and Cycling Plan and acceptance of grant awards from the Department of Transport (Decision reference D714 refers). It also confirmed that an application had been made to Active Travel England for Active Travel Tranche 4 money.

4.2 Given the very short timescales involved, it was not possible to seek approval in advance of bid submission. In consultation with the Executive Director – Place and the Cabinet Member Infrastructure and Environment, the following programme of work was developed for inclusion in the bid, and included a key focus on the Key Cycle Network.

4.3 Although the indicative funding allocation for Derbyshire was £1.2m, the Council has been informed recently of the result of its competitive bid and that a grant of £3,005,000 has been awarded. This is excellent news and will help ensure great strides are made in the preparation and delivery of agreed, sustainable travel projects.

4.4 To confirm, within the funding allocation, the following is proposed:

- A total of £2.73 million has been allocated to fund the construction of Little Eaton Branch Line for developing the former railway as a multi-user path for walkers, cyclists, and horse riders. The 3.5 mile route between Duffield Road in Little Eaton and Rawson Green will extend the National Cycle Network Route 54 from Derby City towards Ripley.
- The remaining £275,000 has been allocated to fund further work to undertake preliminary design, public consultation and planning on the remaining gaps of the White Peak Loop, primarily between Wye Dale, Woo Dale and Buxton town centres and onwards from Buxton to Dove Holes in the north and Harpur Hill in the south.

5. Consultation

5.1 There is no consultation required in association with the acceptance of this grant award. As these projects progress, however, officers will undertake significant local engagement and all required statutory consultations in line with Council expectations and standards.

6. Alternative Options Considered

6.1 Option 1: Not accept the grant from the Department for Transport. Taking this option would put the Council's ambition to develop the Key Cycle Network at significant financial risk. There is also a reputation al risk in that the Council has prepared a successful and to not accept the grant now would damage the credibility of officers and impact our

potential for future funding. This option is therefore not considered acceptable.

7. Implications

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

8. Background Papers

8.1 Cabinet Member – Infrastructure and Environment Decision, Sustainable Travel Programme Update, dated 16 March 2023 (Decision Reference D714 refers).

8.2 Grant Letter.

9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 – Implications.

10. Recommendation

That Cabinet:

- a) Formally accepts the Active Travel Tranche 4 grant from the Department for Transport for £3,005,00 provided under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.

11. Reason for Recommendation

11.1 The Grant funding will ensure the Council can continue to develop sections of the Key Cycle Network.

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

12.1 No.

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Implications

Financial

- 1.1 Active Travel has previously awarded the Council £285,069 Revenue Grant from its Capability and Ambition Fund which must be spent by 12 January 2024. Acceptance of this additional £3,005,000 grant funding means the Council is responsible for delivering agreed projects on time and to budget.
- 1.2 The Council is responsible for the funding of any overspends and must return six monthly monitoring to Active Travel England. In the event that overspends are looking likely, a further report to the relevant body will be submitted in line with Financial Regulations and Scheme of Delegation.
- 1.3 If the Council fails to meet the objective for which the funding was awarded, Active Travel England reserves the right to reclaim the funding; Active Travel England also reserves the right to reclaim any unspent funds.

Legal

- 2.1 The Director of Legal and Democratic Services will provide advice as necessary on the individual projects included in the Council's sustainable travel agenda.

Human Resources

- 3.1 It is expected that the current staffing arrangement within the Sustainable Travel Team will be adequate to deliver the ambitions stated in this report, including the 0.5 Full Time Equivalent Project Officer post, which is currently vacant. Recruitment is on-going.

Information Technology

- 4.1 None.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 At this stage, it is not expected an equalities impact assessment is required. As individual projects emerge, officers will review the need and complete assessments as required.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 6.1 This proposal will help deliver the following Council Plan priorities: Resilient, Healthy and Safe Communities; High Performing, Value for Money and Resident-Focused Services; A Prosperous and Green Derbyshire. Specifically, the retention of these services will also enable the delivery of Place Directorate priorities around sustainable transport and travel
- 6.2 The use of walking and cycling reduces the number of private vehicles on the road and has a positive impact on CO₂ emissions. With many people becoming increasingly concerned for the wider environment, combined with the rising costs to own, and run a private car, it is anticipated that many travellers will be contemplating more sustainable travel options to benefit the environment and their own living costs. If this happens, it will have a positive impact on the Council's wider environmental sustainability objectives and support the targets set in the Climate Change Strategy: Achieving Net Zero.

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

- 7.1 None.