



Name of meeting: Cabinet

Date: 22nd June 2021

Title of report: Kirklees Active Travel Fund; Tranche 2

Purpose of report: The purpose of this report is to seek the following decisions from Cabinet:

- Authorisation for the council to facilitate the Huddersfield Narrow Canal project. In doing so to enter a grant agreement with the Canal and River Trust (CRT), which will allow the CRT to carry out the approved scheme within the agreed timelines.
- In addition to note and approve the additional Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 projects within the programme – noting that the council will be proceeding with drawing up scheme proposals for projects within Spen Valley and Dewsbury and designing, consulting on and delivering these schemes within the agreed timelines. With these actions delegated to the strategic director for Growth and Regeneration, in conjunction with relevant Cabinet Member Portfolio Holders.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerns a programme of £1.9m - Affects multiple electoral wards
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u>	Key Decision – Yes Private Report/Private Appendix – No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	03/06/21 David Shepherd Strategic Director for Growth and Regeneration
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	09/06/21 Eamonn Croston
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	08/06/2021 Julie Muscroft
Cabinet member portfolio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Peter McBride – Regeneration - Cllr Naheed Mather – Environment - Cllr Eric Firth – Sustainable Transport

Electoral wards affected: The following wards are directly affected by the proposed Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 projects:

- Golcar
- Colne Valley
- Dewsbury West
- Dewsbury East
- Liversedge and Gomersal
- Cleckheaton

Ward councillors consulted: On consulting with local ward members for the affected wards the schemes were met with significant cross-party support. Ward members will be further engaged by officers prior to developing public consultation plans.

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? GDPR is applicable to the ATF Programme and has been considered within the development of the business cases and related stakeholder engagement plans.

1. Summary

On Friday 13th November 2020 the Department for Transport gave notice that West Yorkshire Combined Authority had been awarded the full indicative allocation of £10.053 Million from Tranche 2 of the Department for Transport's Emergency Active Travel Fund (EATF).

The award to Kirklees is £1,983,983

* Note Kirklees has not received any monies, but the West Yorkshire Combined Authority has made provision in their Capital Approvals report (presented to the Combined Authority's Investment Committee meeting of 5 November 2020) and been granted authority to enter into an individual Funding Agreement with each Local Authority awarded funds from EATF.

This report seeks authorisation with regards the following:

- Authorisation for the council to facilitate the Huddersfield Narrow Canal project. In doing so to enter a grant agreement with the Canal and River Trust (CRT), which will allow the CRT to carry out the approved scheme within the agreed timelines.
- In addition to note and approve the additional Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 projects within the programme – noting that the council will be proceeding with drawing up scheme proposals for projects within Spen Valley and Dewsbury and designing, consulting on and delivering these within the agreed timelines.

2. Information required to take a decision

In the first quarter of calendar year 2020, Kirklees Officers undertook a detailed analysis of the deliverability of the schemes presented as part of the initial bid. This report presents an amended draft programme that has been agreed with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

The report also seeks a decision from Cabinet to proceed with the consultation on the schemes.

The original bid to the Department for Transport contained the following schemes:

- A62 Leeds Road light segregation
- Moldgreen Active Neighbourhood
- Improvements to walking and cycling access to the Spen Valley Greenway
- Dewsbury Station Access - Calder Valley Greenway Link

After consultation with the Combined Authority and a review of the deliverability of the initial schemes, a new set of schemes has been brought forward in the first quarter of 2021 focussing on the potential for delivering the schemes in line with the Department for Transport's timescales of the 31st of March 2022, a revised programme has been developed:

Scheme	Reason for Inclusion
Huddersfield Narrow Canal phase 2	To address a funding shortfall in the original budget due to increases in construction costs
Huddersfield Narrow Canal Access Point 4e on phase 2	An important strategic location for accessing the investment already undertaken in phases 1 and 2
Improved walking and cycling access to Spen Valley Greenway (NCN66) from Primrose Lane, Liversedge and Cleckheaton Town Centre.	To provide 2 no. safe and accessible routes between the Greenway and the newly refurbished Spen Valley Leisure Centre and Cleckheaton Town Centre. Both these are TCF schemes where early delivery is sought.
Dewsbury Station Access- Calder Valley Greenway Link	A collection of linked schemes including junction improvements at Mill Street West, Dewsbury Ring Road and on highway cycle improvements including road space reallocation by to provide a safe and continuous route from the end of the Dewsbury Greenway to Dewsbury Railway Station

3. Implications for the Council

- **Working with People**

Communications to the public announcing successful award of the Active Travel Fund have been made by WYCA and Kirklees Council.

Full announcement as to the final choice of schemes and their detail has not yet been released.

Full public consultation for Huddersfield Narrow Canal was concluded in January 2021.

Initial consultation on the Dewsbury scheme was undertaken as part of the M2D2L West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund programme between July and September 2020.

A more detailed consultation on the Dewsbury and Primrose Lane schemes is programmed to take place in June/July 2021.

- **Working with Partners**

The ATF Programme within Kirklees is being co-developed and appraised by WYCA. The council will also work closely with its own specialist consultancies, train and bus operators, road user representative groups, equality access groups, business forums and delivery contractors, cycling and walking groups, and other special interest groups.

- **Place Based Working**

Development of all ATF projects will involve recruiting the services and/or knowledge of local user representative and community groups. Members of the public and ward councillors will be consulted on their views on the development of scheme options and designs to achieve the best mix of interventions to deliver the Programme objectives and address local needs.

- **Climate Change and Air Quality**

The reduction of carbon emissions is a key objective and driver for the development of ATF schemes. The delivery and promotion of sustainable transport modes that help to reduce adverse transport-derived impacts on communities and public health is also a determinant in development of the schemes.

- **Improving outcomes for children**

The ATF Programme does not specifically focus on improving outcomes for children; however, all interventions being considered will improve the safety of and provisions for vulnerable road users, which include children.

- **Other (e.g., Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**

The recommendations in this report include a decision on the following:

- Authorisation to accept funding from the Combined Authority for the Huddersfield Narrow Canal Project
- Authorisation for the council to facilitate the Huddersfield Narrow Canal project. In doing so to enter a grant agreement with the Canal and River Trust (CRT), which will allow the CRT to carry out the approved scheme within the agreed timelines.

The Council has the statutory power to:

- (i) enter into grant agreements with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (both in the capacity as accountable body and grant recipient); and
- (ii) To enter into funding agreements with third parties.

Do you need an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)?

The Council as the accountable body will work with the Canal and River Trust to progress an IIA for the Huddersfield Narrow Canal Scheme.

An Integrated Impact Assessment is not required at this stage for the Primrose lane and Dewsbury Station Access schemes

4. Consultees and their opinions

Communications via press release to the public on the submission of the Leeds City Region ATF Bid and the government's subsequent funding announcement have been made by WYCA and Kirklees Council.

Public consultation on the HNC scheme has been successfully concluded.

Public consultation for the other three schemes is due to commence in June/July 2021.

5. Next steps and timelines

Should the cabinet be mindful to agree the authorisation sought in this report then the following indicative timescales are identified for the Dewsbury and Spenningsdale schemes:

- Commence Consultation July 2021
- Review Consultation August 2021
- Finalise Detailed Design September to December 2021
- Commence Construction January 2022
- Schemes substantially complete March 2022

Should approval be given to the HNC scheme delivery is also expected by March 2022.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

Huddersfield Narrow Canal

6.1 Officers recommend that Cabinet:

- 6.1.1 Endorse the Huddersfield Narrow Canal (HNC) project which is to be carried out by the Canal & River Trust.
- 6.1.2 Authorise the Council to enter into a grant agreement with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) for the carrying out of the HNC Project.
- 6.1.3 Delegate to the Strategic Director Growth & Regeneration the authority to negotiate and agree the terms of that grant agreement with WYCA.
- 6.1.4 Authorise the Council to enter into a funding agreement with the Canal & River Trust for the carrying out of the HNC project
- 6.1.5 Delegate to the Strategic Director Growth & Regeneration the authority to negotiate and agree the terms of that funding agreement with the Canal & River Trust.
- 6.1.6 Delegate to the Service Director Legal Governance & Commissioning the authority to enter into and execute any grant agreement and funding agreement referred to in 6.1.2 and 6.1.4 above together with any ancillary documents.

Spen Valley Greenway Project & Dewsbury Station Access Project

- 6.2 Officers recommend that Cabinet:
- 6.2.1 Note and endorse the inclusion of the Spen Valley Greenway Project and the Dewsbury Station Access Project within the Active Travel Tranche 2 Programme.
 - 6.2.2 Approve the carrying out of public consultation in relation to the proposals for these three projects.
 - 6.2.3 Approve the working up of detailed proposals for these three projects.
 - 6.2.4 Approve the Council entering into a grant agreement with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority for the purposes of providing grant funding for the working up of detailed proposals for these three projects
 - 6.2.5 Delegate to the Strategic Director Growth & Regeneration the authority to negotiate and agree the terms of those grant agreement with WYCA
 - 6.2.6 Delegate to the Service Director Legal Governance & Commissioning the authority to enter into and execute any grant agreement referred to in paragraph 6.2.4 together with any ancillary documents.
- 6.3 Officers make these recommendations because (a) the Active Travel Tranche 2 Programme will bring substantial benefits to the Council's area (b) it is in officers' view the best programme currently achievable and (c) because of the need to deliver the Active Travel Tranche 2 programme within a tight timescale

7. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

The three Cabinet Portfolio holders have been briefed on the programme and officer recommendations. The Portfolio Holders support the officer recommendations.

8. Contact officer

Tim Lawrence – Transport Strategy and Policy Manager Major Projects Team, Economy and Skills

tim.lawrence@kirkless.gov.uk

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Kirklees Economy and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel 8th December 2020.

<https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=572&MId=6500>

Kirklees Economy and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel 4th March 2021.

[Scrutiny Report - Major Transport Schemes Update - 22-02-21.pdf \(kirklees.gov.uk\)](#)

10. Service Director responsible

Angela Blake, Service Director for Economy and Skills