

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 14 September 2021

TITLE	DfT Active Travel Fund (ATF) Tranche 3		
Ward(s)	Citywide		
Author: Jacob Pryor	Job title: Transport Policy, Bidding and Strategic Projects Team Manager		
Cabinet lead: Cllr Don Alexander, Cabinet Member for Transport	Executive Director lead: Stephen Peacock, Executive Director Growth and Regeneration		
Proposal origin: BCC Staff			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member Decision forum: Cabinet			
Purpose of Report: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To provide a summary of the funding opportunity from the Department for Transport (DfT) for the Active Travel Fund (AFT) Tranche 3.2. To approve the schemes and Expressions of Interest included in Bristol's bid to the DfT via WECA.3. To delegate authority to the Executive Director for Growth and Regeneration to deliver the scheme if the bid is successful			
Background <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Recognising that the city faces a number of transport, health and environmental challenges, one of the priorities of the council is identify funding for schemes that help reduce congestion, improve health outcomes and contribute to our objective of being net carbon zero by 2030. Walking and cycling initiatives and 'Liveable Neighbourhoods' are some of the most effective means of meeting these goals offering several benefits beyond safer and more reliable transport connections.			
Context <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Department for Transport (DfT) have announced a funding competition that seeks to improve walking and cycling infrastructure across the country titled 'Active Travel Fund (ATF) Tranche 3'.2. The competition also seeks to identify Local Authorities (LA) interested in receiving development funding to deliver a national pilot Liveable Neighbourhood scheme and/or partake in a GP Prescribing Pilot3. The bid was submitted on the 9th August by the West of England Combined Authority (WECA).4. While the DfT have not detailed an indicative funding allocation per LA the value of the bid is expected to be in line with last years' ATF settlement of £3m across the WECA area – of which Bristol received £1.2m.5. That said there is an expectation that LA's will overbid to show ambition and outline plans that may receive funding if other submissions across the country fall below standard.6. Schemes will need to be delivered by March 20237. The invitation to bid from the DfT can be found in <i>Appendix A1</i>			
<u>Bid strategy for cycling infrastructure</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Bristol's 'Street Space' walking and cycling programme has seen the introduction of several high-profile			

improvements that have contributed to keeping the city moving over the course of the pandemic. Further information on the projects can be found on the Bristol City Council website

2. Bristol's approach to ATF 3 will be to build on the schemes in the Bristol 'Street Space' project providing high quality and permanent materials in place of the temporary orange and white barriers and wands currently in place.
3. The headline scheme will be improving and making permanent the pedestrian and cycle infrastructure on Upper Maudlin/Park Row/Colston Street and Queens Road. Two additional schemes will also be submitted: Old Market pedestrian and cycle improvements and Cotham Hill streetscape improvements
4. This will include better crossing environments and separation from motor traffic for pedestrians and safe, segregated routes for cyclists.
5. The Councils bid for these schemes will be £4.120m of which £3.130m will be for Upper Maudlin, £0.693m for Old Market and £0.350m for Cotham Hill
6. These improvements are part of our longer-term strategy looking at significant investment into the walking and cycle network as outlined in our Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan
7. In addition to the ATF3 funding the Council will be relying on £0.303m of s278 payments agreed with developers and a further £0.250m from the council capital highways maintenance budget, bringing the total value of projects to £4.673m.
8. It is anticipated that the necessary works and services to deliver on the above projects will be commissioned through the Councils Highway Asset Management and Associated Works Framework. Although other routes may be appropriate. Individual contracts may exceed £0.5m

Expression of Interest for Liveable Neighbourhood Pilot

1. The One City Plan highlights support for designing and delivering Liveable Neighbourhoods (LN), building on similar statements of support in the Joint Local Transport Plan 4, Bristol Transport Strategy and most recently through the Citizens Assembly process
2. Bristol is already developing its first pilot LN in the East of Bristol focussing on the area covering Barton Hill, Netham and St George. Bristol will frame its EoI around the East Bristol LN.
3. Successful EoI's will receive development funding of up to £0.1m to begin initial work on schemes

Expression of Interest for GP Prescribing Pilot

1. The third aspect of the bid for is for LA's to submit an Expression of Interest to receive development funding (up to £0.1m) to be 1 out of 4 areas promoting a GP walking and cycling prescribing pilot. These pilots must be supported by the Clinical Commissioning Groups and Primary Care Networks.
2. The concept is that GP's could prescribe walking and cycling to patients and where appropriate signpost patients to loan bikes, training and peer support groups among other offers.
3. Bristol will frame its EoI around the Family Cycling Centre and communities in south Bristol.

In the event that either or both of the EoI's are successful, it is proposed that the initial funding be used to develop the pilot projects further before reporting back to Cabinet before committing capital funds.

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the submission of a bid to the DfT's ATF3 programme for £4.120m for the identified schemes set out in this report.
2. Note the additional funding from developer contributions and highways maintenance budget as set out in the report.
3. Authorise, in the event that the bid is successful, the Executive Director for Growth and Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, the s151 officer, and the Head of Legal Services to take all steps required to procure and award all necessary contracts to deliver the schemes as outlined in the finance section to the limit of £4.673m.
4. Approve the submission of an expression of interest in being a national Liveable Neighbourhood Pilot area

and a GP Prescribing Pilot area.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

1. Promoting active travel in the city helps us to meet a number of different health, economic and social challenges, but this proposal relates specifically to the ‘key commitment 1’ under the “well connected” theme which states: *Improve physical and geographical connectivity; tackling congestion and progressing towards a mass transit system*

City Benefits:

1. Encouraging more of our residents to walk and cycle will improve health outcomes and air quality and reduce carbon emissions associated with transport. Protected cycle infrastructure will disproportionately benefit children, women and black and minority ethnic cyclists who typically cite safety as the biggest barrier to cycling. Similarly, improved crossing points and a better-quality walking environment will provide the largest benefit to those citizens with physical, visual and neurological disabilities. The Liveable Neighbourhoods approach will adopt a ‘co-design’ process to increase the sense of ownership that residents have over changes in their local area and the GP Prescribing pilot provides the opportunity to target areas in the south of the city with poor health outcomes.

Consultation Details:

- The capital element of the bid proposal builds on existing engagement and consultation with residents and businesses along the Upper Maudlin Street/Park Row/Colston Street and Queens Road corridor as well as engagement with residents and traders on Cotham Hill. All schemes will be subject to further engagement before delivery.

Background Documents:

- Appendix A1: Invitation to bid from the DfT

Revenue Cost	£ 0	Source of Revenue Funding	N/A
Capital Cost	£4.673m	Source of Capital Funding	Department for Transport capital grant (£4.1m), developer match funding (£0.3m) and local highway maintenance funding (0.25m)
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:

Finance Advice:

1. The report is seeking approval to fund this project from a combination of sources. The council is seeking approval to submit a bid to the Department for Transport (Dft) for £4.120m. In addition, developer funding has already been agreed total £0.303m, and the Council will be contributing £0.250m from the council capital highways maintenance budget (P135071005) in 2022/23 (The Highways maintenance budget allocations are confirmed by WECA annually, as a result, it is important to secure such approval ahead of commissioning any related work in 2022/23 or find an alternative source of funding in the unlikely event that the expected allocation is not approved).
2. The report is seeking approval to spend £4.673m in capital resources over the current and next two financial years. The total amount of estimated expenditure and how this will be funded has been summarised in the Table 1 below:

Table 1

DETAILS	2021/22				2022/23				2023/24				TOTAL COSTS			
	DFT Funding	Developer Funding	Council Funding	Total	DFT Funding	Developer Funding	Council Funding	Total	DFT Funding	Developer Funding	Council Funding	Total	DFT Funding	Developer Funding	Council Funding	Total Amount
Old Market	94,935	20,715	0	115,650	544,368	282,632	0	827,000	0	0	0	0	639,303	303,347	0	942,650
Park Row	147,575	0	0	147,575	2,561,437	0	0	2,561,437	421,834	0	250,000	671,834	3,130,845	0	250,000	3,380,845
Cotham Hill	350,000	0	0	350,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	350,000	0	0	350,000
TOTAL	592,510	20,715	0	613,225	3,105,805	282,632	0	3,388,437	421,834	0	250,000	671,834	4,120,149	303,347	250,000	4,673,495

3. Delegated authority is sought (subject to a successful Dft grant award) to procure the necessary goods and services to deliver the projects as detailed below. Table 2 below outlines the summary items of spend:

Table 2

All Projects	
Item	Cost
PM	187,230
Design	588,381
Construction & Contingency	3,897,884
Total	4,673,495

4. The cost of the work outlined will be contained within the funding envelope provided, with reasonable contingencies allowed. Approval of this report is therefore not expected to result in any additional financial implications for the council beyond the amounts detailed above.
5. The service will be expected to follow the Council approved procurement process and ensure that adequate contingencies are built into the various work packages that will be commissioned.
6. The report also seeks authorisation to submit an expression of interest to become both a Liveable Neighbourhood Pilot area and a GP Prescribing Pilot area. There are no funding implications for the Council at this stage, if successful, the Council will be able to bid for funding to develop each scheme.

Finance Business Partner: *Kayode Olagundoye, Interim Finance Business Partner, Growth and Regeneration, 26/08/2021*

2. Legal Advice: Submitting bids and expressions of interest in themselves raises no particular legal issues. If a bid is successful consideration will need to be given to any conditions attached and arrangements put in place to ensure compliance. When commissioning any contracts (goods works or services) to deliver the schemes procurement will need to comply with the Public Contracts Regulations and the Councils own procurement rules.

Legal Team Leader: *Eric Andrews, Team Leader, Legal Services 18/8/21*

3. Implications on IT: No anticipated impact on IT Services

IT Team Leader: *Simon Oliver 30/06/21*

4. HR Advice: There are no anticipated HR implications

HR Partner: *Celia Williams 30/07/21*

EDM Sign-off	Stephen Peacock	06/07/21
Cabinet Member sign-off	Marvin Rees - Mayor	29/06/21
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	16/08/21

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	YES
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	NO

Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO
Appendix L – Procurement	NO