



Executive Summary of Agenda Item No. 9

Report title: DfT Access Fund revenue competition 2017/18 – 2019/20

Wards affected: Citywide

Strategic Director: Barra Mac Ruairi

Report Author: Colin Rees

Recommendation for the Mayor's approval:

1. That Bristol City Council submits a bid to the Department for Transport's Access Fund revenue competition for £6.9m (2017/17 – 2019/20) in partnership with the West of England Authorities.

Purpose of report:

1. To seek approval that Bristol City Council submits a bid to the Department for Transport's Access Fund revenue competition for £6.9m (2017/17 – 2019/20) in partnership with the West of England Authorities, to provide continued funding to support and promote sustainable travel. Bristol's share of this bid would be £2.6m.

Key details:

1. The DfT announced the Access Fund revenue competition (2017/18-2019/20) on the 5th July with a deadline for submission on the 9th September. The maximum bid on offer is £7.5m revenue over 3 years. The WoE plans to submit a £6.9m bid (Bristol £2.6m) with Bristol as the lead bidder.
2. The core objective of the fund is to support the local economy by improving access to new and existing employment, education and training, to support sustainable transport modes and to promote increased levels of physical activity through greater uptake of walking and cycling.
3. The bid will provide revenue funding for the next three years to continue work undertaken since 2011 through previous sustainable travel funding streams; the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) and this year's Sustainable Travel Transition Year Fund (STTY). Currently 8 FTEs who are engaged in promoting sustainable transport in Bristol are supported by STTY.
4. The funding will continue to deliver a wide range of schemes including community, schools and business engagement activity. Some specific examples include support for family cycle training; school travel plans and match-funded grants for businesses to install onsite sustainable transport facilities.
5. The funding is also critical in maintaining levels of marketing/communications support for sustainable transport, including the West of England's transport website TravelWest. An element of this funding will be used to launch the MetroBus operation in the West of England in 2017, and to provide good quality information at MetroBus stops.
6. Not securing funding would be a significant blow at a time when the city is seeing unprecedented levels of capital investment to improve the transport network – the Access Fund seeks to link with this investment to break non-essential, car dominated travel patterns.

