

# Decision Pathway – Report



**PURPOSE:** Key decision

**MEETING:** Cabinet

**DATE:** 07 June 2022

<b>TITLE</b>	Levelling Up Fund bid opportunities	
<b>Ward(s)</b>	Filwood; Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston	
<b>Author:</b> Hannah French	<b>Job title:</b> Deputy Head of Policy and Public Affairs	
<b>Cabinet lead:</b> Cllr Craig Cheney (Deputy Mayor; City Economy, Finance & Performance)	<b>Executive Director lead:</b> Stephen Peacock, Executive Director Growth and Regeneration	
<b>Proposal origin:</b> Other		
<b>Decision maker:</b> Cabinet Member <b>Decision forum:</b> Cabinet		
<b>Purpose of Report:</b>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To provide a summary of the funding opportunity from the Government’s Levelling Up Fund (LUF) second round</li> <li>2. To approve the two identified schemes to be included in the Council bid(s) to the LUF by 6 July 2022</li> <li>3. To delegate authority to the Executive Director for Growth and Regeneration to deliver the scheme(s) if the bid(s) are successful, in consultation with relevant Cabinet leads.</li> </ol>		
<b>Evidence Base:</b>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Background</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1. The Levelling Up Fund (LUF) 2 prospectus was published on March 23, 2022. The second round focuses on the following three investment themes: town centre and high street regeneration; support for maintaining and expanding the UK’s portfolio of cultural and heritage assets; and local transport projects.</li> <li>1.2. In this second round, the Government is seeking projects of up to £20m that can demonstrate spend in the 2022-23 financial year. It expects all funding provided from the Fund to be spent by 31 March 2025 or 2025/26 on an exceptional basis. The Fund itself will run until 2024/25.</li> <li>1.3. Each local authority has been placed into category 1, 2 or 3 based on Government criteria, with category 1 representing the highest level of identified need. Bristol was identified as category 2 and did not receive any bid development funding. This prioritisation will inform DLUHC’s consideration of bids against the ‘characterisation of place’ criteria set out in the accompanying assessment framework. This categorisation is despite data showing Bristol has 41 areas in the most deprived 10% in England.</li> <li>1.4. UAs can submit a number of bids for any of the Fund’s investment priorities equivalent to the total number of constituencies within their boundaries. Bristol Members of Parliament (MPs) have a formal role in the bidding process and are required to provide formal priority support to one bid. The deadline for final submissions is 6 July 2022.</li> <li>1.5. Whilst we have not identified any negative impacts from the report’s proposal to seek approval to take forward two bids for the Government’s Levelling Up Fund, if such bids are successful, to ensure delivery meets the needs of the respective local communities and equalities groups, further equality impact</li> </ol> </li> </ol>		

assessments will be required.

## **Summary of Bristol City Council proposal**

Given the above considerations, the Council is seeking approval to submit two bids for the following projects for the 2022-23 second round of LUF:

### **2. Filwood regeneration (Bristol South constituency)**

2.1. The Levelling Up Fund prospectus includes a focus on regeneration and town centre investment; acquiring and regenerating brownfield sites; investing in secure community infrastructure and crime reduction; and bringing public services and safe, accessible community spaces into town and city centres.

2.2 Filwood Broadway is within the top 1.5% most deprived areas in England; the number of people claiming unemployment related benefits is 60% higher in Filwood than the Bristol average and in the Council's recent Quality of Life survey, only 66.7% of local residents were satisfied with their local area, with 33.6% indicating they had shopped in their local street at least once a week.

2.3 In March 2012, Cabinet approved a Filwood Broadway Enhancement Paper which endorsed the Filwood Broadway Development Framework and in October 2012, approved a Knowle West Regeneration Framework, including spatial plans and site proposals; and endorsed an investment plan, principles and programme delivery. The Frameworks have been in place for some time, and the progression of the projects within the area has been delayed. However there is now sufficient capacity in place to bring forward a number of projects which will positively contribute to the regeneration of Filwood and the surrounding area.

2.3 On 5/2/2019 Cabinet approved a report which included the following recommendation - authorise the Executive Director for Growth and Regeneration, in consultation with Cabinet Member for Housing, to submit future external funding bids which will facilitate the delivery of new homes, infrastructure, and regeneration. On 5/2/2022, Cabinet approved £700,000 investment in Filwood and Knowle West.

2.4 The Levelling Up Fund bid for this scheme will be multi-million capital bid (estimated £12+m with local match funding of approx. 10%) that will provide further investment in this area of the city. A successful bid will enable the Council to deliver further investment beyond the activity already underway, including enhancing the public realms works and proceeding with potential new investment in library and other community facilities. The components will form an integral part of the Council's ambition to deliver extensive improvements to Filwood Broadway and its immediate area. Individual elements are aligned to enable additional homes, increased and/or better-quality community and commercial floorspace, with more opportunity for recreation and cultural activities, set within a much greener and attractive environment.

2.5 As noted above, Cabinet has approved £700,000 investment in Filwood and Knowle West which is expected to qualify as match funding. The £390m HRA Business Plan was approved by Cabinet in January 2022 and Full Council in March 2022. In excess of £9m of this HRA investment is projected to be applied Filwood Broadway during the Levelling Up programme period and a proportion of this will also be put forward as match funding. The main risks to scheme delivery relate to the necessary Planning Consents being secured.

### **3. Bristol Cycling Centre (Bristol North West constituency)**

3.1 The Levelling Up Fund prospectus includes a focus on maintaining, regenerating, or creatively repurposing existing cultural or sporting assets, or creating new assets that serve those purposes, sports and athletics facilities as well as transport investments that include but are not limited to active travel.

3.2 The Bristol Cycling Centre will be a multimillion pound capital bid (estimated £12-13m with local match funding of approx. 10%) to construct and operate a new purpose-built regional cycling centre incorporating a competition standard cycling track at Lawrence Weston. Officers from Public Health and Transport have looked for a site to

combine an inclusive cycle centre (where anyone can learn to ride a bike in a traffic free area with a range of inclusive cycles) with a Closed Road Cycling Circuit (CRCC) as identified in Bristol's Sport and Active Recreation Facility Strategy, in order to develop a fully inclusive sub-regional cycle facility. Henacre Open Space is the preferred site location.

3.3. This project and the recreational use proposed is consistent with the open space policies of the BCC local plan, the Lawrence Weston Neighbourhood Development Plan, and the relevant emerging policies in the local plan review. The current much smaller cycling centre at Hengrove Park will close when that site is developed for housing, and services will then transfer to the new, larger centre at Lawrence Weston.

3.4 The proposed bid will invest in a flagship centre that provides a regional hub to increase cycling levels and physical activity in the city, as well as outreach community programmes and additional employment, training and local community inclusion benefits. The Cycling Centre will be an inclusive facility with a core cycling programme that enables new and existing riders to enjoy and benefit from a variety of different cycling disciplines and improve their riding, skills, confidence, fitness and general wellbeing and contributing to increasing levels of cycling and physical activity in the City. It will be the focus for supporting more specialist programmes such as social prescribing and physical rehabilitation, and for accessing broader Council cycle promotion services such as Wheels to Work, loan bikes, Cargo bikes etc. It will also have a regional training centre offer and will include outreach programmes to offer work experience and training to the local community.

3.4. Local match funding of 10% has been identified through the Clean Air Zone. If a LUF bid is unsuccessful, the approach may include a bid to the West of England Combined Authority and/or consideration of alternative sites. These options would likely require further investment from the Council.

#### **Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:**

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the submission of bids to the Levelling Up Fund for each of the two identified schemes, Filwood regeneration and Bristol Cycling Centre, as set out in this report.
2. Authorise, if successful, the Executive Director of Growth and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Cabinet Member for Housing Delivery and Homes, and S151 Officer, to accept and spend the funding including agreeing the terms of any grant award and procuring and awarding contracts (which may be over £500k) to deliver the relevant project, including design work and planning permission, within the maximum budget envelopes outlined within this report and without further reference to Cabinet.
3. Approve the allocation of local match funding [of 10%] from within the agreed HRA capital programme (Filwood) and Clean Air Zone (Cycling Centre) or other identified match options (subject to delegated authority limits).
4. Notes the previous Cabinet approval dated 18 January 2022 approving the use of the Housing General Fund towards the 10% match funding contribution as outlined in this report.
5. Authorise, if the bids are unsuccessful or fail to achieve the full ask, the Executive Director for Growth & Regeneration, in consultation with Cabinet Member for Finance and Cabinet Member for Housing, and S151 Officer to identify and submit bids for other potential sources of funding within the maximum budget envelopes outlined in this report.

**Corporate Strategy alignment:** The bids collectively meet several elements of our Corporate Strategy, in particular:

1. Homes and Communities: Healthy, resilient and inclusive neighbourhoods with fair access to decent, affordable homes.
2. Tackle health inequalities to help people stay healthier and happier throughout their lives.
3. Economic growth that builds inclusive and resilient communities, decarbonises the city and offers equity of opportunity.

#### **City Benefits:**

1. The proposals provide numerous benefits to the city and its residents, including the opportunity for increased sport and leisure activity leading to healthier lifestyles
2. 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.
3. In Filwood, facilities such as the proposed Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), the public realm, and the community

space at the former Filwood Broadway Cinema site will be available to the entire community, and as such will contribute to an equitable society. Providing such facilities in proximity to people's homes is also positive in terms of sustainability as it will reduce car borne travel to other destinations for sports and recreation.

4. There will also be social value benefits to the community by ensuring inclusivity, and potential for reduced crime and anti-social behaviour as a result of increased facilities.

#### Consultation Details

**Filwood regeneration:** The components that will make up this bid have been subject to various consultation activities:

- Public realm proposals for Filwood Broadway have benefitted from various consultation activities, including most recently community led design workshops in January and March 2022, and formal public consultation anticipated later in 2022.
- Also of note is Council officers' regular attendance at the Filwood Broadway Working Group meetings, and regular interaction with the Knowle West Alliance and Knowle West Regeneration Residents Planning Group. The Council will continue to engage with the stakeholder organisations in Filwood, such as Live West, the Filwood Playing Field Trust, and Fields in Trust.
- January to February 2022 saw pre planning consultation on the former Filwood Broadway Cinema site proposals took place. Statutory consultation will be undertaken on the planning application for these proposals post submission. The proposed MUGA will be subject to public consultation as the proposals evolve.
- With regard to the former Filwood Swimming Pool site, there was consultation on the planning application for new homes, ref: 21/05652/F, in late 2021. This application will be determined by Members of the Council's Development Management Committee.
- Filwood Ward Councillors and the relevant Lead Members of Cabinet are briefed on a regular basis, and this will continue.
- If a bid is successful, there will be further public consultation on preferred design for public realm works, the community centre project and Filwood Broadway.

**Cycling Centre:** Consultation has been undertaken including the following activities:

- Local engagement sessions with residents in Lawrence Weston have taken place as well as a fact-finding survey. Public engagement has taken place during October 2019 at an event on site, and via the Councils consultation portal in March 2020.
- The Council has also consulted with Ambition Lawrence Weston, and British Cycling representatives from the South and Southwest as well as Local Cycle Clubs including Access Sport, Go Ride Clubs and Inclusive Cycling providers – much of this activity was undertaken in 2020-21.
- There has been engagement with Ward Councillors and relevant Lead Members of Cabinet
- Further consultation including for necessary planning application and as part service development and community outreach work will be required if the bid is successful.

#### Background Documents:

[Levelling Up Fund Round 2: Prospectus](#)

[Levelling Up Fund Round 2: Updates to the Index of Priority Places](#)

<b>Revenue Cost</b>	£	<b>Source of Revenue Funding</b>	
<b>Capital Cost</b>	£	<b>Source of Capital Funding</b>	Awarded DLUHC capital grants (estimated at c£12m (Filwood)); and £13m (Bristol Cycle Centre); match funding of 10% from a combination of HRA Business Plan for Filwood Regeneration; and 10% from CAZ income for Bristol Cycling Centre
<b>One off cost</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Ongoing cost</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Saving Proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Income generation proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>

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

**Finance Advice:** This report informs members of the funding opportunity afforded by the Government’s Levelling Up Fund (LUF) and seeks approval for the two schemes identified by officers to be included in the Council bid(s) to second round of the LUF.

**Filwood Regeneration:** A bid of up to £12m will be submitted, with an expected match funding of up to £1.3m (10%) which is to be funded from a combination of housing General fund and Housing HRA funding. The two confirmed sources of funding are: £700k in Housing GF capital and up to £9.8m in the HRA capital programme (22/23 -24/25). The bid is still being developed; however, adequate match and contingency has been identified, and it is expected that the bid will be completed in time for the bid submission date, and all necessary due diligence completed by the Housing finance team. The Housing and Landlord services will be responsible for any costs overrun.

**Bristol Cycling Centre:** A bid of up to £13m will be submitted (inclusive of a contingency of £2m). These costings reflect recent pricing and assessment following ongoing review and development of the business case. It will require match funding of £1.3m which is expected to be met from CAZ income. This service will be expected to be responsible for any cost overrun where such costs cannot be value engineered. The service is also reviewing all previous funding commitments to reallocate such funds to this scheme ahead of any CAZ income drawdown (where such funds still exist).

The LUF funding condition requires the Council as the lead authority to accept responsibility for meeting any costs over and above the Government contribution, including potential cost overruns and the underwriting of any funding contributions expected from third parties.

If successful, both projects will need to commence implementation in 2022/23 and be completed by 24/25 (25/26 on exceptional basis only). As Bristol is grouped as a category 2 LA, it did not receive any funding towards the development of this bid.

If successful, services are expected to follow all necessary procurement processes.

**Finance Business Partner:** Kayode Olagundoye, Interim Finance Business Partner, Growth and Regeneration, 23 May 2022

**2. Legal Advice:** No particular legal issues arise in connection of the application for grants. Careful consideration will however need to be given to the conditions attached to any approvals, including any obligations for match funding etc. Legal services will assist in this. In addition, approval is sought for the Executive Director, should the bids be successful, to proceed to commission all contracts required to deliver each project, without further reference to Cabinet, regardless of value. All procurement activities will of course need to comply with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Councils own procurement rules.

**Legal Team Leader:** Husinara Jones, Team Leader – Commercial & Governance Team, 16 May 2022

**3. Implications on IT:** I can see no implications on IT in regard to this activity.

**IT Team Leader:** Gavin Arbuckle – Head of Service Improvement and Performance, 27 April 2022

**4. HR Advice:** Have reviewed the report and can confirm that there are no HR implications evident

**HR Partner:** Chris Hather, HR Consultancy Manager - Growth and Regeneration, 19 April 2022

<b>EDM Sign-off</b>	Stephen Peacock, Executive Director Growth and Regeneration	27 April 2022
<b>Cabinet Member sign-off</b>	Cllr Craig Cheney, Deputy Mayor; Economy, Finance and Performance	05 May 2022
<b>For Key Decisions - Mayor’s Office sign-off</b>	Mayor’s Office	9 May 2022

<b>Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external</b>	<b>NO</b>

<b>Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix D – Risk assessment</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix G – Financial Advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix H – Legal Advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix I – Exempt Information</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Appendix J – HR advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix K – ICT</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix L – Procurement</b>	<b>NO</b>