

Report Title	Disbursement of Liverpool City Region Active Travel Fund Tranche 4 to Local Authorities
Portfolio Holder	Deputy Portfolio Holder for Transport and Air Quality
Summary of report	This report seeks approval for the disbursement of Active Travel England (ATE) funding in relation to Active Travel Fund 4 2022/23 to the six constituent local authorities.
Is this report exempt?	Yes – in part confidential appendices
Is this a Key Decision	Yes - Financial and Community Impact
Is the report urgent	No
Is this decision to be exempt from call in	No
Local Authorities affected	All Local Authorities
Impact and implications of this report	
Financial impact	Yes – see paragraph 4.1
Delegation (s) sought	See recommendation 2 (a)
Supporting the Corporate Plan	A Fairer City Region ✓ A Stronger City Region ✓ A Cleaner City Region ✓ A Connected City Region ✓ A Vibrant City Region ✓
Climate Change Implications	Yes – see paragraph 4.3
Equality and Diversity implications	Yes – see paragraph 4.4
Social Value implications	No
Human Resources implications	No
Physical Assets implications	Yes – see paragraph 4.5
Information Technology implications	Yes – see paragraph 4.6
Legal implications	Yes – see paragraph 4.7
Risk and Mitigation	Yes – see paragraph 4.8

Privacy implications	No
Communication and consultation implications	Yes – see paragraph 4.9
Contact Officer(s)	John Smith, Programme Development Officer
Appendices	<p>Yes,</p> <p>1 - Active Travel Fund Grant award letter (2022/23): No S31/6595 – Confidential</p> <p>2 - Local Authority grant allocation totals - Confidential</p>
Background Documents	No

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

Friday, 28 April 2023

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - PLACE AND THE DEPUTY PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR TRANSPORT AND AIR QUALITY

DISBURSEMENT OF LIVERPOOL CITY REGION ACTIVE TRAVEL FUND TRANCHE 4 TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report seeks Combined Authority approval for the disbursement of funding received from Active Travel England (ATE) in relation to Active Travel Fund 4 (ATF4) and/or the change control process for Active Travel Fund 3 (ATF3) to the six constituent local authorities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority:

- (a) notes the detail in Appendix 1;
- (b) approves the disbursement of the Active Travel Fund 4 allocations as set out in the confidential appendices 1 and 2; and
- (c) notes the Change Control process for Active Travel Fund 3 and the detail contained in confidential Appendix 1.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. In late 2022 Active Travel England (ATE) informally announced a potential capital grant bid for Local Authorities and Combined Authorities across England. The formal announcement for the Active Travel Fund 4 (ATF 4) bid was made on 6 February 2023 and the deadline date would be 24 February 2023, effectively giving three weeks to complete the application.
- 3.2. The Combined Authority and constituent Local Authorities were able to make some preparation for this bid prior to 6 February and submitted the bid by the deadline.
- 3.3. Although identified as 2022/23 this capital grant is available to use for projects which will be starting construction before March 2024. ATE are promoting in ATF 4 a greater emphasis on schemes promoting walking and wheeling and of 'place making'.
- 3.4. On the 22 March 2023, ATE indicated that the Combined Authority has been successful in securing ATF4 funding. A copy of the ATF4 grant award letter is attached as confidential appendix 1 with the total value for each of the constituent authorities set out in the confidential appendix 2.

- 3.5. All ATF4 scheme proposals have been assessed by ATE for eligibility with core scheme criteria, for compliance with relevant safety and design requirements, and for value for money. While this letter confirms that the scheme(s) at Appendix 1 have been determined as eligible for funding, ATE will continue to work with the Combined Authority to ensure high quality designs are delivered.
- 3.6. This grant is awarded on the understanding that the Combined Authority and constituent Local Authorities will deliver the funded schemes in conjunction with ATE, that scheme designs are appropriately reviewed and inspected by ATE. Officers will work with ATE to resolve to ATE's satisfaction any scheme design shortcomings that are identified. Failure to rectify identified design shortcomings with ATE could lead to a downgrade in the Liverpool City Regions capability level which may reduce future funding payments.
- 3.7. ATE appreciate that, during implementation, opportunities or challenges may arise that require a change to projects in order for outcomes to be realised to their full potential. Any substantive changes to scheme scope or timeframes should be reported to ATE via a formal change control request. Should the ability to deliver the objectives for which funding was awarded be significantly compromised, ATE will work with scheme promoters to identify appropriate alternative schemes that remain consistent with the objectives of the original bid and ATE's strategic objectives for the Fund. If no suitable alternative proposals can be found, or if schemes are prematurely removed or weakened without providing sufficient evidence and/or change control information, ATE reserves the right to amend future funding provision as appropriate.
- 3.8. ATF4 schemes must be delivered to the timelines set out in the bid submitted. Funding must be committed by the end of the 2023/24 financial year, and schemes delivered as soon as reasonably possible thereafter. A commitment could consist of a contract for design and construction, or a business case approving delivery of a scheme agreed with Council executives. While timeliness of scheme construction may be considered when assessing authority capacity and capability, ATE expect construction for all schemes to be completed by March 2025.
- 3.9. All authorities will be expected to participate in monitoring and evaluation activities for ATF. Monitoring data will be collected via 'pulse surveys' (to track progress and spend). All authorities should be prepared to participate in the national evaluation and work with the national evaluator if schemes are selected.
- 3.10. Active Travel Fund 3 (ATF3) Change Control Process
- 3.10.1 In November 2022, Active Travel England notified authorities that a change control process to request further funding to ensure high quality schemes are delivered and to deal with other pressures had been developed.
- 3.10.2 ATE were keen to get clarity around schemes that require a change control so that they can be considered quickly, and release funding this financial year where requests are successful. Local authorities were invited to bid for additional funding through the change control process by the 16 December 2022.

3.10.3 Change control forms were submitted by Knowsley Council, Liverpool City Council and Wirral Council. The outcome of the change control process is also further set out in the confidential appendix 1.

4. IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS

4.1. Financial

The Executive Director Corporate Services has approved the receipt of the Local Authority ATF4 and the proposed disbursement across the constituent local authorities as set out in the confidential appendices.

4.2 Supporting the Corporate Plan

This funding will support the following objectives of the Corporate Plan:-

A Fairer City Region - Active travel is a mechanism to tackle inequality and social inclusion.

A Stronger City Region - Active travel supports improving the attractiveness of the city region as a place to do business. Research shows that cities with high levels of participation in active travel are more likely to attract new investment and improve retention rates.

A Cleaner City Region - Investment in active travel measures will support the shift away from private cars, particularly for shorter journeys.

A Vibrant City Region - Active travel opens up further opportunities to access the region's cultural offer.

A Connected City Region - Active travel supports people to improve access to employment opportunities right across the region.

4.3 Climate Change

Increasing the number of people cycling, walking and wheeling in the City Region will help support the achievement of net zero. 52,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions are saved annually by people cycling instead of driving.

4.4 Equality and Diversity

Following the publication of the government's guidance note Local Transport Note 1/20 Cycle Infrastructure Design, (LTN1/20), all newly implemented infrastructure for cycling, walking and wheeling will need to meet minimum standards which include provision for adapted bikes, provides a safe separated environment for cyclist suitable for use by children and adults.

The provision of safer routes also provides opportunity for individuals who may find themselves in transport poverty as a result of lower incomes to utilise active travel, potentially supported by the revenue activities which are also part of this fund.

Each scheme funded will be required to complete an Equality Impact Assessment by the constituent local authority.

4.5 Physical Assets

Local Authority ATF4 activities will impact on the physical assets of the constituent local authorities as a result of the introduction of permanent cycle, walking and wheeling measures which should, if they are to be eligible for funding, result in *meaningful reallocation of road space* as stated in the government's policy document Gear Change: A Bold Vision for Cycling and Walking.

4.6 Information Technology

As part of the Monitoring of the Active Travel measures designed and subsequently implemented, it is proposed to install sensors along the routes. The sensors will be the same as those currently utilised on routes funded through previous Active Travel Fund allocations and will be procured utilising the Combined Authority framework agreement with Vivacity.

4.7 Legal

A grant funding agreement letter will be agreed with each of the constituent local authorities to meet the requirement of the ATE grant funding.

4.8 Risks and Mitigation

Risks will include those associated with project delivery. Individual risk registers will be formulated by each of the project sponsors and will be monitored as part of the monitoring process for the project.

4.9 Communication and Consultation

The Combined Authority Communications Team liaise with the Local Transport Plan Development Team ensuring a continued Communications Strategy to support the activities of Active Travel across the Liverpool City Region.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1. Local Authority ATF4 will be utilised to plan and deliver high quality active travel infrastructure across the Liverpool City Region.

5.2. As approved on 24 March 2023, the Executive Director Corporate Services acting as the Section 73 officer has agreed to receive the ATF4 and approval from the Combined Authority is now sought to disburse the funding in accordance with the values shown in Appendix 2.

RICHARD McGUICKIN
Executive Director - Place

Cllr STEVE FOULKES
Deputy Portfolio Holder for Transport and
Air Quality