



OFFICER DECISION RECORD

This form should be used to record Executive decisions taken by Officers

Decision Ref. No:			
Service Area:	Infrastructure	Date:	19 March 2024
Contact Name:	Graham Farrant	Tel No:	01202 127976
E-mail:	Graham.farrant@bcpcouncil.gov.uk		
Subject:	Acceptance of Active Travel Capability Funding		
Decision taken: To accept £285,908 2024 Active Travel Capability Funding revenue (Tranche 4) from Active Travel England for walking and cycling projects.			
Reasons for the decision: <p>The Council's Financial Regulations state that the acceptance of external funding of between £100,000 and £1.0M requires Cabinet / cabinet member approval in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer.</p> <p>ATE contacted the Council on 14 March 2024 advising that it required local authorities to complete acceptance of the Active Travel Capability Funding grant by 26 March 2024. It is not possible to obtain Cabinet approval by the 26 March 2024 deadline, hence, Chief Executive delegated powers to accept the funding on the grounds of urgency are being utilised.</p>			
Background: <p>On 14 March 2024 the Council was advised that it would be allocated Active Travel Capability funding for 2024, to be paid within the 2023/2024 financial year. Funding levels are based on a formula that takes into account Local Authorities' population and Capability Rating. BCP Council's allocation for 2024 is £285,908, and was to be paid as a revenue grant under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.</p> <p>This follows the successful award in September 2023 when the Council was awarded £143,500 from an earlier tranche of the same fund. Prior to that, in March 2023 ATE advised the Council of £3.78M Active Travel Fund (ATF4) grant comprising £3,609,090 Capital and £170,910 Revenue.</p> <p>The Capability Fund revenue funding is provided subject to the Council extending delivery of the same programme of work set out in the Council's original Active Travel Capability Fund proposal in 30 September 2022. The current tranche of</p>			

funding is provided to extend delivery of this programme of work for 12 to 18 months.

Due to the exceptionally short timescale, it is not possible in line with the Council's Financial Regulations, to obtain Cabinet approval to accept the funding. Hence, this decision is being made by the Chief Executive on the grounds of urgency. This action shall be reported to Cabinet.

The Active Travel Capability funding (subject to Cabinet approval) could be utilised to deliver the following:

- i Continue to extend our Bike It Plus and School Streets programme, building on the successes of these and providing continuity to the work.
- ii Additional engagement with schools to encourage and enable modal shift.
- iii Provide cycle training and cycle maintenance events.

Consultations undertaken:

Officers consulted:

- Julian McLaughlin – Service Director, Infrastructure
- Richard Pincroft – Head of Transportation
- Beth Barker-Stock – Sustainable Travel Team Leader

Councillors consulted:

- Councillor Vikki Slade
- Councillor Andy Hadley

Note: It is the responsibility of the 'Responsible Officer' – that is the Officer making the decision – to obtain the comments and signature of the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer **before** taking the decision and then send the completed record of the decision to Democratic Services for publication.

Finance and Resourcing Implications:

All resources and costs to deliver the schemes in accordance with the grant criteria are included within the funding, or already allocated through the LTP capital programme for 24/25.

Failing to accept the grant funding will mean that the existing Capability Fund funded active travel-based activities would cease by the end of 2024, whereas acceptance would mean that the activities at nil cost to the Council could continue until at least October 2025, by which time it is expected the next allocation of Capability Fund would be secured from Active Travel England.

Financial risks and value for money assessment:

This is an extension to an existing scheme and costs are fully funded by grant.

VAT implications: These will have been considered as part of the existing scheme.

Date: 21 March 2024

Signature (of Assistant Chief Finance Officer):



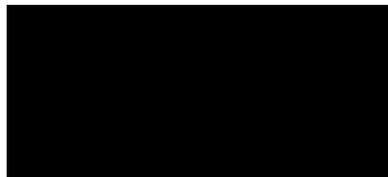
Nicola Webb

Legal Implications: **LEGAL SERVICES TO COMPLETE**

As stated within this report, the constitution does allow for the Chief Executive to use his delegated decision making authority where there is insufficient time to convene a meeting of Cabinet. The decision made by the Chief Executive to accept this grant funding offer will have to be retrospectively reported to a future meeting of the Cabinet.

Name: Janie Berry

Date: 20 March 2024



Signature (of Monitoring Officer):

Risk Assessment:

If the change is not made the following risks are possible:

Not being able to accept the Active Travel Capability funding would result in the very popular and successful Bike It programme, working with multiple schools across the BCP Council area, having to cease in December this year. Not accepting the funding also means that the Council's ability to roll out additional School Streets, and to engage meaningfully with schools around active travel and mode shift, will be limited by existing team resources. This will impact on the propensity to shift to sustainable and active travel modes and make it more difficult to achieve reductions in traffic congestion, which in turn impact on air quality, the local economy, health and wellbeing and climate change targets.

Name: Beth Barker-Stock

Date: 19/03/2024

Signature (of Officer Completing Assessment):



Impact Assessments:

No impact assessment has been undertaken in relation to the decision to accept the funding.

Information for publication / not for publication

Note:

Background Papers

None.

Any declaration of interest by the
Officer responsible for the decision

Nature of Interest

No

Note: No Officer having an personal financial interest in any matter should take a decision on that matter. Other interests of a non-disqualifying matter should be recorded here.

Any conflict of
interest declared by
a Cabinet
Member who is
consulted by the
Officer taking the
decision

Name of
Cabinet
Member

Nature of
interest

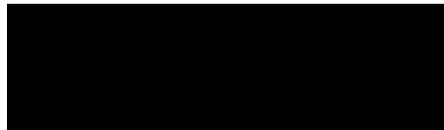
Details of any
dispensation
granted by the
Monitoring Officer

No

Decision taken by: (print name and designation)

Graham Farrant, Chief Executive

Signature:



Date of Decision: 21 March 2024

Date Decision Effective: 21 March 2024

Date of Publication of record of decision: (to be inserted by Democratic Services)

Note: A record of this decision should be kept by the Service Area within which the decision falls.