



Agenda Item No: 4.3

## Active Travel Grant Funding

To: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board

Meeting Date: 19 October 2022

Public report: Yes

Lead Member: Mayor Dr Nik Johnson

From: Anna Graham, Transport Programme Manager

Key decision: Yes

Forward Plan ref: 2022/040

Recommendations: The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:

- a) Approve the drawdown of £635,000 of Active Travel Capital Funding Grant allocated by the Department for Transport for two active travel measures in Peterborough. £625,000 for Thorpe Wood Cycle Way and £10,000 for School Streets.
- b) Delegate authority to the Interim Head of Transport in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer, to conclude a Grant Funding Agreement with Peterborough City Council to enable work to progress.

Voting arrangements: Item a) vote in favour by at least two thirds of all Members (or their Substitute Members) appointed by the Constituent Councils, to include the Members appointed by Cambridgeshire County Council or Peterborough City Council, or their Substitute Members

Item b) a simple majority of all Members present and voting.

To be carried, the vote must include the vote of the Mayor, or the Deputy Mayor when acting in place of the Mayor

# 1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek approval from the Combined Authority Board to drawdown the £635,000 granted by the Department for Transport (DfT) from their Active Travel Fund for Thorpe Wood Cycleway and School Streets – both in Peterborough.
- 1.2 Additionally, approval is sought from the Combined Authority Board to delegate authority to the Interim Head of Transport to conclude a Grant Funding Agreement in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer. Enabling, the funding to be granted to Peterborough City Council.

# 2. Background

- 2.1 In May 2020 central government announced funding supporting Local Authorities to install emergency active travel measures as part of the government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Tranche 2 followed and funding for 2021 to 2022, announced in May 2022, supports the creation of longer-term active travel projects.
- 2.2 A new executive agency of the DfT, Active Travel England (ATE), has been established and expected to be fully rolled out in 2022-23. ATE reviewed all Tranche 3 scheme proposals put forward for their compliance with LTN 1/20, for their usefulness to cyclists and pedestrians and for their ability to contribute to the wider active travel network.
- 2.3 Those projects which received funding were considered by ATE to be of good quality, ambition and capable of meeting LTN 1/20 requirements. For the Combined Authority area, funding has been granted for two active travel measures in Peterborough.
  - Thorpe Wood Cycleway; and
  - School Streets
- 2.4 For those projects which did not receive funding, the DfT and ATE provided high level feedback which identified the issues that would need to be resolved if they are to be successful in future funding rounds. Common themes were identified such as, shared use paths, narrow cycle/footways, and lack of protection at junctions.
- 2.5 The Active Travel Management Combined Authority Paper of 28 July 2021 outlined the approach to developing the active travel fund bid, drawing on the draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for both Highway Authorities. The Peterborough draft LCWIP identified Thorpe Wood, Peterborough as a priority with a Benefit Cost Ratio of 2.5 – high value for money. The economic appraisal, within the LCWIP, follows the principles set out by the Treasury in its 'Green Book' and developed in accordance with the approach set out by the DfT in its web-based Transport Analysis Guidance (WebTAG, updated 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019). Additionally, this scheme was processed through the Active Mode Appraisal Toolkit (AMAT).
- 2.6 The Thorpe Wood Cycleway looks to connect the replacement footbridge currently being progressed by the A1260 Junction 15 project with existing cycleways off Thorpe Wood Road, and into the Anglian Water Offices. The cycleway has potential for extension beyond this point should funding become available in the future. The plan attached in Appendix 1 shows the full potential length of the cycleway – subject to future funding.
- 2.7 Thorpe Wood Cycleway received funding from Tranche 2 Active Travel Funding and

preliminary design is underway. Peterborough City Council are working with Active Travel England who are currently reviewing the preliminary design. The addition of the Tranche 3 Active Travel Funding will support the project's progress into detailed design and construction.

- 2.8 School Streets sees temporary road closures outside the entrance of a school, enabling it to become a foot, or cycle or scoot zone during the schools opening and closing times. Encouraging active travel and reducing congestion and pollution outside the school entrances.
- 2.9 Funding from Tranche 2 enabled 11 schools to become 'School Streets' and the Tranche 3 funding enables these to transition from temporary to permanent arrangements by Traffic Regulation Order and permanent signage. In addition, Peterborough City Council would like to establish further school streets, where viable, with interested schools. These schemes are key fundamental components of the emerging strategy for the city as outlined in the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan.

### 3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The Tranche 3 Active Travel Grant has been awarded by the DfT for Thorpe Wood Cycleway at a value of £625,000 and to the School Streets to a value of £10,000.
- 3.2 Approximately £220,000 is expected to be spent in 2022/23 financial year and the remaining funding spent in 2023/24 financial year.

### 4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The Combined Authority will enter into a Grant Funding Agreement after confirmation as fit for purpose by the Combined Authority's Legal Services. The recommendations accord with CPCA's powers under Part 3 and 4 of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Order 2017 (SI 2017/251)

### 5. Public Health Implications

- 5.1 Thorpe Wood Cycleway and School Streets seek to encourage active travel by providing improved and safe routes. Increasing those walking and cycling as the subsequent health and wellbeing benefits of exercise.

### 6. Environmental and Climate Change Implications

- 6.1 Encouraging active travel by providing cycle routes or safe zones seeks to influence travel choice and potentially lead to mode shift.

### 7. Other Significant Implications

- 7.1 None at this time

### 8. Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1 – Thorpe Wood Cycleway Plan

8.2 Appendix 2 – Grant Funding Letter

## 9. Background Papers

9.1 Peterborough LCWIP - [LCWIP \(Aug 21\) \(peterborough.gov.uk\)](https://www.peterborough.gov.uk)

9.2 Active Travel Management 28 July 2021 Combined Authority [Board Paper](#)