



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 3.9

Active Travel

To:	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board
Meeting Date:	28 July 2021
Public report:	Yes
Lead Member:	Mayor Nik Johnson
From:	Paul Raynes Director of Delivery and Strategy
Key decision:	No
Forward Plan ref:	Not applicable
Recommendations:	The Combined Authority Board is recommended to: a) Agree the approach to submitting active travel funding proposals to the government set out in this paper.
Voting arrangements	Simple majority of Members present and voting.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This paper is to inform the board of the timetable and process for the Combined Authority to submit proposals for the next stage of Active Travel Funding to meet a DfT deadline of 8 August, and to seek the Board's approval for the approach agreed between officers of the Combined Authority and the Highways Authorities.

2. Background

- 2.1 Under current arrangements, Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council, as highways authorities, take the lead on implementing active travel (walking and cycling) measures within the policy framework set by the Local Transport Plan, and lead on developing the Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plans (LCWIP). There is close liaison on active travel between officers of the Combined Authority and the Highways Authorities, in particular over the last year through the weekly meetings of the Covid-19 Transport Restart Group.
- 2.2 In the financial year 2020-21, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough made a bid on the government's Emergency Active Travel Fund. The area was awarded £2.9m which is currently funding schemes in delivery by the two Highways Authorities.
- 2.3 The government launched a new active travel funding round through a letter to Transport Authorities on 14 June 2021. Bids need to be submitted by the Combined Authority, with a deadline of 8 August 2021.
- 2.4 There are three strands to the government's bidding arrangements:
- Active Travel capital funding: schemes submitted for this competition must where possible be prioritised through an approved Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan, and must be compliant with the technical standards set out in the DfT's Local Transport Notice 1/20 (LTN1/20). These two conditions constrain the highways authorities in what they put forward. In particular, the LTN1/20 condition may tend to drive up scheme costs as it imposes high quality specifications. Schemes will also need to be subject to local consultation. The total national funding available under this strand is £239 million.
 - Mini Hollands: the government is offering a small amount of development funding to areas which intend to undertake "intensive, transformational spending on local roads and streetscapes to make them, over time, as cycle and pedestrian-friendly as their Dutch equivalents";
 - GP prescribing of active travel: the government is looking for a small number of authorities to participate in a pilot scheme to encourage GPs to prescribe walking and cycling as part of a social prescribing offer.
- 2.5 Officers from the highways authorities are working up bids under the capital scheme now, drawing on the existing Peterborough LCWIP and the Cambridgeshire LCWIP, which is at consultation stage. In the case of the county, we have sought and received assurances that the bids will be developed in consultation with district councils.

- 2.6 Officers are also exploring the possibility of “Mini Holland” bid. Discussions are in hand with public health colleagues on the possibility of mounting a social prescribing pilot.
- 2.7 Given the tight timescale to bid, and the need for district consultation, it has not been possible to set out a list of proposed capital schemes to this meeting. The Board’s approach thus far has in any case been to entrust the responsibility for preparing a list of active travel schemes to the two highways authorities, with their consolidated list submitted through the Combined Authority. The Board is invited to agree that the same approach should be taken on this occasion.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no net implications for the Combined Authority budget. If the bids are successful, the Board will be asked to authorise the passporting of any grant awarded to Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council to fund delivery.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The Combined Authority’s Constitution provides for funding bids to be submitted with the authority of the S.73 officer. Given the timing constraints to meet the government’s 8 August deadline, it is proposed that the bid be submitted using this provision of the constitution.
- 4.2 This Board meeting shall be conducted in accordance with Parts 2 and 3 of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings)(England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020 No.392).

5. Other Significant Implications

- 5.1 None

6. Appendices

- 6.1 None

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None