



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 3.4

Active Travel: Peterborough

To:	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board
Meeting Date:	8 June 2022
+Public report:	Yes
Lead Member:	Mayor Dr Nik Johnson
From:	Tim Bellamy, Interim Head of Transport
Key decision:	Yes
Forward Plan ref:	KD2022/020
Recommendations:	<p>The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Approve the drawdown of £750,000 of Active Travel Funding from the Medium-Term Financial Plan for a Feasibility Study and construction of improvements to the Peterborough Green Wheelb) Approve the drawdown of £3,427,800 of Active Travel Funding from the Medium-Term Financial Plan for a Full Business Case new pedestrian footbridge linking Fletton Quays and the Embankment area in Peterborough, subject to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities approving the Towns Fund bid.c) 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:	For items a) and b) 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 present and voting is required.

For item c) 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 Active Travel Funding from the Medium-Term Financial Plan for a new pedestrian footbridge linking Fletton Quays and the Embankment area and improvements to the Green Wheel in Peterborough.
- 1.2 In addition, to seek approval for delegated authority to be granted to the Interim Head of Transport to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with Peterborough City Council.

2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 30 March 2022, the Combined Authority Board approved a short list of projects which have cross-region impact, fit within the headroom within the current Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP), align with emerging strategy and are likely to represent good value for money.
- 2.2 The shortlist included ringfenced funding for active travel improvements for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. For Peterborough the active travel enhancements comprise of two projects, a new pedestrian footbridge connecting Fletton Quays and the Embankment area and improvements to the Green Wheel.
- 2.3 The Fletton Quays and the Embankment Area of Peterborough are identified as opportunity areas by the Peterborough City Centre Development Framework. Fletton Quays includes over 350 riverside apartments, office space, a hotel and restaurant, leisure, and retail opportunities.
- 2.4 In 2018, the new Peterborough City Council headquarters opened at Sand Martin House, and the Fletton Quays Government Hub is currently under construction, which will be home to several government departments including the Passport Office and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.
- 2.5 The Embankment Area is predominantly open space, however, the recently published masterplan outlined considerable redevelopment of the area. ARU Peterborough is opening Phase 1 in September 2022, with further phases to come forward over the next 3-5 years.
- 2.6 Redevelopment of both the Embankment and Fletton Quays will increase demand on walking and cycling routes. Existing connectivity, however, for pedestrians and cyclists to the City Centre, and the Embankment Area is currently via poor quality infrastructure alongside busy roads.
- 2.7 There are two routes to cross the river Nene from the south of the city into the City Centre. The routes are via A15 Town Bridge, or a shared pedestrian and cycle path on Nene Bridge alongside the A1139 Frank Perkins Parkway. Both routes are long and indirect with infrastructure provision of varying quality.
- 2.8 The River Nene Pedestrian Bridge will create a new a key connection between two extensive redevelopment sites and the City Centre core, making it easier to travel on foot or by bicycle.
- 2.9 Whilst the Footbridge forms a significant portion of the active travel improvements proposed the Green Wheel is a significant walking and cycling asset in Peterborough.

- 2.10 The Green Wheel cycle route is a signed route around the outskirts of Peterborough, with 'spokes' extending from the city centre to the 'rim' of the wheel. It is composed of both on and off-road sections and is over 45 miles in length. It was first opened in 2000.

Figure 1 Map of Peterborough Green Wheel



3 Fletton Quays Footbridge and Peterborough's Green Wheel

In October 2020 Peterborough City Council was awarded £22.9 million from the Towns Fund to support a range of projects in areas of urban regeneration, planning, land use, connectivity, skills, and enterprise infrastructure to support the planned future growth of Peterborough.

- 3.1 A key component of the Towns Fund for Peterborough is the masterplan for the Embankment and £2 million of match funding for the design and construction of an additional bridge across the river to improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity between the north and south of the city.
- 3.2 The current pedestrian and cycle links between the two sites, and the City Centre is currently inadequate, with indirect routes and poor infrastructure alongside busy city centre roads. The new bridge will provide a safe, direct link connecting into the 'Green Wheel' network.
- 3.3 The proposed improvements seek to address recommendations within the 2020 Green Wheel Condition Report and explore the feasibility of extensions to the Green Wheel Network, connecting village locations on the outskirts of Peterborough.
- 3.4 Peterborough City Council undertook an Outline Business Case for the river Nene or Fletton Quays footbridge which achieves a core Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) of 1.6 (Medium Value for Money) based on monetised transport user and active travel benefits alone, and an adjusted BCR of 2.2 (High Value for Money) when wider economic benefits are considered.
- 3.5 For Peterborough's Green Wheel, an assessment using the Government's Propensity to Cycle Tool will be undertaken to understand the benefits from the investment in improved infrastructure.

- 3.6 Peterborough City Council will deliver all phases of the projects, including Design, Construction and Site Supervision through their Peterborough Highway Services Contract.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 As part of the additions to the capital programme and revenue MTFP presented to the Combined Authority Board on 30 March 2022, subject to approval capital budget of £9.137m and £0.200m revenue budget across the years 2022-23 to 2025-26, were agreed for Active Travel improvements. This report is requesting approval for drawdown of part of the total funding allocation for the project.
- 4.2 Both Fletton Quays and improvements to the Green Wheel will have spend over multiple financial years. The below table shows expected spend by financial year and for all funding streams:

	Financial Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Funding Stream	Funding stream 1 (CPCA Gainshare)	£250,000 (Green Wheel and Active Travel) £465,000 (footbridge)	£500,000 (Green Wheel and Active Travel) £941,850 (Footbridge)	£2,020,950 (footbridge)
	Funding stream 2 Towns Fund	£0 (footbridge)	£500,000 (footbridge)	£1,440,000 (footbridge)
	Funding stream 3 Peterborough City Council developer funding	£0 (footbridge)	£0 (footbridge)	£955,024 (footbridge)

- 4.3 There are no additional financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 None

6. Public Health Implications

- 6.1 These improvements seek to improve walking and cycling infrastructure, providing more direct and safe routes and by doing so encourage more people to walk and cycle. Increasing those walking and cycling as the subsequent health and wellbeing benefits of exercise.

7. Environmental and Climate Change Implications

- 7.1 Improving walking and cycling infrastructure is expected to encourage more active travel and mode shift.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 Peterborough Green Wheel Report

9. Background Papers

- 9.1 [Budget Monitoring Report March 2022](#)

10. Accessibility

- 10.1 An accessible version of the information contained in this report is available from democratic.services@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk