

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

4172

Author:

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Department:

Development and Growth

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Subject:

Section 31 Department for Transport revenue top up grant for Travel Demand Management

Total Value:

£25,000 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

1) To accept an additional £25,000 of Section 31 Travel Demand Management "top up" revenue grant funding (s31 TDM) from the Department for Transport for measures to support socially distanced travel options for the journey to school during COVID19. 2) To approve the allocations set out in Appendix B to spend the s31 TDM grant funding. 3) To approve a contract award of up to £10,000 to local charity Ridewise to expand their Community Bike Library offer to include loan bikes for families and children to support the School Streets support package.in the Active Travel programme.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

The Council has been awarded an additional £25,000 of Section 31 Travel Demand Management (TDM) revenue grant funding from Department for Transport. This is top up funding to the £150,000 grant previously approved under DD4506 for measures to help to manage capacity on public transport during the school morning and afternoon peak during COVID19. The Section 31 TDM funding can be used for locally determined measures to support socially distanced travel options for the journey to school that will reduce demand for public transport including promoting more walking and cycling for journeys to school, and for wider travel behaviour change activities and communications to manage peak travel demand. The grant conditions for the top up funding are the same as for the original award as set out in Appendix A along with the email confirmation of the additional funding award.

The Section

31 TDM top up grant will provide additional funding for Transport Nottingham marcomms activities: Lamppost banners on school routes in School Street areas and targeted social media and drive time radio adverts, Enable provision of free loan bikes for families to support cycling to school as part of the rollout of the new RideWise community bike library which launched in February, and; Support monitoring and evaluation activities for the School Streets programme. The funding allocations for the Section 31 TDM top up package are provided in Appendix B Table 1.

These activities complement the delivery of the school street measures under the 20/21 Emergency Active Travel Fund and Active Travel Fund programmes and the associated school engagement package previously approved under DD3939 and Executive Board Key Decision 15 December 2020 as summarised in Appendix B.

Briefing notes documents:

210301 DD App A s31 TDM grant offer.pdf, 210224 DD App A s31 TDM grant conditions.pdf, 210225 DD s31 TDM top up grant App B Allocations updated.docx.pdf, 210225 DD s31 TDM top up funding briefing for decision makers fv - NOT FOR PUBLICATION.pdf

Other Options Considered:

1) 1. To refuse the funding award: This option has been rejected as the funding is provided to support safe travel to school during the pandemic and refusing the funding would reduce the Council's capacity to proactively work with schools and families when school reopen after national lockdown to support the take up of walking and cycling to school. This would impact on our capacity to reduce congestion, transport related air pollution outside schools and manage reduced public transport capacity during COVID19;

2) 2. To deliver an alternative package of travel demand management measures: This option was rejected as the funding is provided to support safe travel to school during the pandemic. The proposed programme has been designed to enhance other school focussed delivery under the Access Fund, Emergency Active travel Fund and Active Travel Fund programmes.

Background Papers:

None

Published Works:

DD4056 2020/21 Department for Transport Section 31 revenue grant for Travel Demand Management approved 2 December 2020DD3939 Acceptance of funding from the DfT's COVID-19 Emergency Active Travel Fund - Tranche 1 approved 28 July 2020

Executive Board Key decision - Emergency Active Travel Funding - Tranche 2 approved 15 December 2020

Affected Wards:

Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

None

Consultations:

Date: 01/03/2021

Other: Councillor Adele Williams, Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Local Transport

This is a small extension of an existing agreed support package approved under DD4056. The Portfolio Holder is supportive of the additional measures proposed to be funded by the S31 TDM funding, including provision of support to extend the Ridewise bike library offer to schools, as part of a wider co-ordinated programme of school travel activities.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

Measures in the programme are aimed at supporting more people to walk and cycle more often for local journeys including the journey to school. Creating more space for people to walk and cycle safely and reducing the demand for public transport at peak travel times will help people to observe social distancing while making essential journeys. Engagement with parents, pupils and schools will signpost people to cycling support services in the city to support safe cycling. Increased take up of cycling for local journeys will improve tolerance of people for cyclists when they are driving.

Equality:

EIA not required. Reasons: This is an extension of the s31TDM package approved under DD4056 in December 2020 and so is covered by that EIA.

Social Value Considerations:

Ridewise is an established local third sector supplier with charitable status. Ridewise started a community bike library in February 2021 offering free bike loans to enable people in Nottingham without bikes to take up cycling. Ridewise is a trusted local delivery partner with links into many communities across the city and so it is best value to establish a school focussed bike library as an extension of this existing project in order to maximise its reach and effectiveness. The school offer will piggy back onto Ridewise's existing bike loan management and maintenance processes and extend the range of bikes the library can loan to children and families to support cycling to school. Working with a local charity and their local supply chain for refurbished bikes will support local jobs for bike mechanics, ride leaders and cycle instructors, as well as providing community training and volunteering opportunities. The marcoms activities comprise small scale orders all below £5000 in value procured City Council Design and Print Services and with local media outlets - radio stations for drive time ads will be selected on the basis of each station's reach and coverage to target the demographic most likely to be making school journeys.

Regard for NHS Constitution:

The measures in the Schools Travel Demand Management package are designed to support the uptake of active travel options, develop a cycling culture in our youngest citizens and help families and young people to observe social distancing for the journey to school. The top up funding funds additional measures to support schools and families to adopt everyday travel behaviour that increases opportunities for physical activity, which is now of increased importance for reducing the risk factors for COVID19. The measures will also help to reduce local air pollution from road transport particularly around the school gate and improve mental health and wellbeing.

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

09/04/2021

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement

Legal Advice:

The proposals in the report raise no significant legal issues and are supported.

The additional grant funding received from the DfT will be used to additionally support travel demand requirements in the city during whilst social distancing measures are still in place.

The Council must ensure that it uses the grant funding in accordance with the Grant Conditions from the DfT. This includes that where it is providing money onto third party organisations, it must ensure that the same conditions are appropriately passed on to avoid risk of any claw back and to enable the Council to comply with reporting requirements imposed upon it from the DfT.

It is understood that Ridewise are a new provider in the city offering a bike library provision but the additional funding from the Council will enable them to ensure additional bikes are available within this offer to children in the City. Advice provided by Dionne Claire Screatton (Solicitor) on 11/03/2021.

Finance Advice:

Decision 1 seeks to accept £25k Travel Demand Management (TDM) DfT s31 grant funding (in addition to £150k grant and associated expenditure approved through DD 4056) to support marcomms activities. Acceptance of the TDM grant funding does not require a match funding contribution from the Nottingham City Council (NCC), therefore places no pressure on NCC's Medium Term Financial Plan.

Decision 2 requests approval of expenditure allocations against the £25k grant funding awarded. The s31 TDM grant must be spent in accordance with the purpose for which the grant has been awarded and allocated by the 31st March 21 in order to reduce the risk of grant claw back and to not compromise NCC's ability to access future DfT grant funding. It is the responsibility of the Principal Transport Planner to comply with the grant conditions as stipulated in the grant award letter and to ensure that expenditure is contained within the grant funding budget available in order to reduce unfunded costs to NCC.

Decision 3 requests to approve direct award of £10k to Ridewise. This is supported due to Ridewise being recognised by the Transport Strategy department as a trusted supplier with the necessary expertise to deliver the Community Bike Library offer which will also assist in capitalising benefits of the Emergency Active Travel Fund programme - school streets and low traffic neighbourhood measure workstreams.

Advice provided by Roma Patel (Commercial Business Partner) on 04/03/2021.

Procurement Advice:

The decision to be taken raises no significant Procurement concerns. Advice provided by Paul Ritchie (Lead Procurement Officer) on 18/03/2021.

Signatures

Adele Williams (Portfolio Holder for Adult Care & Local Transport)
SIGNED and Dated: 31/03/2021
Chris Henning (Corporate Director for Development and Growth)
SIGNED and Dated: 24/03/2021