

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

Reference Number:

4966

Author:

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Department:

Growth and City Development

Contact:

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Subject:

Agree to accept and spend the Active Travel Capability Fund 2022/23 Grant (revenue)

Total Value:

£348,252 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

- 1) To accept £348,252 award of DfT 22/23 Active Travel Capability Fund revenue grant as set out in Appendix A.
- 2) To approve the programme and spend allocations set out in Appendix B Tables 1 and 2.
- 3) To approve the procurement strategy detailed in Appendix C for contracting external providers to deliver active travel behaviour change projects and to delegate approval of associated contract awards to the Corporate Director of Growth and City Development.
- 4) To approve the award of a grant contribution of £52,400 to facilitate continuation of the British Cycling partnership programme until 31st December 2023.

1) To accept £348,252 award of DfT 22/23 Active Travel Capability Fund revenue grant as set out in the grant award letter Appendix A.

Funding for Active Travel is a priority for the Department for Transport (DfT) which has led to the creation of Active Travel England (ATE) as a specific organisation to work with Local Authorities on design, delivery and funding allocations. The DfT have also brought in a new design guide (LTN1/20) which stipulates designs must comply in order to secure funding and Authorities must have a long term strategy in place through Local Walking Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). Delivering high quality sustainable green transport will support Nottingham to become a resilient city and contribute towards improving the quality of the city's built environment. By improving the liveability of our local neighbourhoods, city centre and through creating healthier streets, that are co-designed with our communities all our residents will benefit from a smarter, cleaner, better connected and forward looking transport system. All designed to make Nottingham a better place to live, work, play and invest. Investment in sustainable and active transport infrastructure will also contribute towards the City Council's ambitions towards becoming carbon neutral by 2028.

In support of these aims and to enable local authorities to provide for active travel the Capability and Ambition grant has been made available to Local Authorities. Given the level of funding provided to Nottingham a Portfolio Holder Decision is required to enable the Council to accept the grant, in order to deliver the services and spend the grant, in line with the conditions and themes that the grant was provided for.

2) To approve the programme and spend allocations set out in Appendix B Tables 1 and 2.

Appendix B details the programme. The funding will be used to deliver two programmes:- Active travel behaviour change activation measures- Capability building and scheme development.

In accepting the funding there will be no additional Council expenditure required to deliver the programme.

This programme will provide significant investment into Nottingham's communities and ensure established programmes continue. All areas will have robust monitoring and evaluation in place to assess outputs and this will be reported back to the funder.

It is important that the council shows it can respond effectively to this opportunity by mobilising to deliver proven projects that complement other active travel investment under the Active Travel Fund and Transforming Cities programmes. In some cases projects are up and running and ensuring continuity and funding support is important to enable them to keep operating and ensure partner organisations can retain staff for the project delivery.

This can be achieved by building on the good practice already established through the Access Fund programme since 2017/18. The proposed programme and allocations (Appendix B) have been selected to complement the travel behaviour change projects already approved for funding under the Active Travel Fund, the remainder of the Access Fund and the council's allocation for cycle training from the Bikeability Trust. Together with the Capability Fund these projects form a comprehensive programme of active travel measures to support our communities, our businesses, jobseekers and schools which will ensure as many citizens as possible living and working in the city will benefit from the capital investment in walking and cycling infrastructure and support a carbon neutral approach. 3) To approve the procurement strategy detailed in Appendix C for contracting external providers to deliver active travel behaviour change projects and to delegate approval of associated contract awards to the Corporate Director of Growth and City Development.

Appendix C details the proposed routes to procurement.

To enable projects to be initiated and delivered in the timeframes and ensure continuity of existing projects. The procurement strategy conforms to the Council's financial regulations and best value has been considered.

It should be noted that the grant award in some cases has been made on the basis of the supplier, as they are delivering national programmes at a local level which the DfT have encouraged and facilitated authorities to participate in. 4) To approve the award of a grant contribution of £52,400 to facilitate continuation of the British Cycling partnership programme until 31st December 2023. British Cycling are the national body for sports cycling in the UK who hold government funding which they invest in the areas they partner with and they are the only body that can access this funding stream. This partnership is a crucial element of Nottingham's cycling ambition strategy and is necessary for Nottingham to continue to be seen as a major cycling city in the UK. The ongoing partnership work unlocks opportunities to bid with British Cycling for Sport England funding streams. The procurement strategy is to make a direct grant award of £52,400 to British Cycling to enable continuation of the British Cycling partnership programme for 12 months up to December 2023. The partnership will provide the services of the Regional Cycling Delivery Manager supported by 2 FTE dedicated staff time for programme delivery and associated marketing and communications collateral and data insight, which would otherwise not be available to Nottingham.

**Briefing notes documents:** PfH approval Appendix B and C.docx, PfH briefing Active Travel funding.doc, Appendix A Nottingham City C and A award letter.pdf

**Other Options Considered:** 1. Don't accept the funding. This would result in a loss of income for the Council resulting in funding which will support activities provided by partner groups no longer going ahead. It would also result in a loss of income which will be used to cover staff costs in relation to the development of cycle and walking infrastructure. This in turn would negatively impact on the Council's reputation with the Department for Transport and potentially negatively impact on future transport funding bid allocations. 2. Accept part of the funding. The funding has been provided in two key themes both of which benefit the Council, residents and partner organisations. Neither element of the the funding will result in a cost to the Council. As with option 1 this may also have a negative impact on reputation with the Department for Transport.

**Background Papers:** N/A

**Published Works:** N/A

**Affected Wards:** Citywide

**Colleague / Councillor Interests:** N/A

**Consultations:** Date: 22/12/2022  
Chief Finance Officer: Clive Heaphy  
The funding application required S151 approval to allow the DfT to transfer funding to the Council. This was provided but grant acceptance and spend is subject to Portfolio Holder approval.

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision. The Capability and scheme development will require discussions with minority groups to ensure designs meet requirements. This will be taken forward as part of the design process.

**Crime and Disorder Implications:** No direct implications on crime and disorder.  
  
It is worth noting that funding will be used to provide opportunities, investment and activities throughout the City including areas impacted by higher crime levels and anti-social behaviour. However the funding is not designed to tackle these issues and monitoring will not examine whether this investment has had a direct impact.

**Equality:** EIA not required. Reasons: This approval covers a programme of projects and measures. Where required EIAs will be produced for individual elements to ensure they are directly relevant to the project rather than generic to the wider programme.

**Social Value Considerations:** N/A

**Decision Type:** Portfolio Holder

**Subject to Call In:** Yes

**Call In Expiry date:** 22/06/2023

**Advice Sought:** Legal, Finance, Procurement

**Legal Advice:** The Council must comply with grant conditions and, as explicitly noted in the grant award letter, Subsidy Control statutory obligations. The Council must ensure it seeks permission, and follows relevant guidelines, if using the corporate identity of 'Active Travel England'. The Council must also comply with its own constitution. Legal Services will continue to support colleagues in respect of the preparation or review of contractual documentation.  
  
Advice provided by Anthony Heath, Senior Solicitor, Contracts and Commercial, 22/2/23.

**Finance Advice:**

**Decision 1 seeks to accept £348,252 Department for Transport Section 31 revenue grant award planned to be spent in 2023/2024 Financial year for Active travel Projects detailed in Appendix B. Acceptance of the DfT grant funding does not require a match funding contribution from the Nottingham City Council (NCC) and DfT will not clawback if the various projects timeframes are exceeded, this therefore places no pressure on NCC's Medium Term Financial Plan.**

**Decision 2 requests approval of expenditure allocations against the £348,252 grant funding awarded. The S31 DfT grant must be spent in accordance with the purpose for which the grant has been awarded. 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 the use of external providers, which must adhere to the relevant Procurement Guidance. This allocation contained within Appendix C is of total £156,252 in value.**

**Decision 4 requests to approve direct award of £29,352 to Love to Ride to deliver the 2023 cycle engagement and campaign package. This must be in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29 and approved by procurement. This is supported as Love to Ride are recognised by DfT as a unique supplier for this cycle challenge package and the previous years of the campaign have established the offer in the city.**

**Decision 5 Seeks to approve the award of a grant contribution of £52,400 to facilitate continuation of British Cycling partnership programme for a further 12 months until 31 December 2023. This must Adhere to the relevant procurement guidelines. The £52,400 will provide the services of the Regional Cycling Delivery Manager supported by 2 FTE dedicated staff time for programme delivery and associated marcomms collateral and data insight, which would otherwise not be available to Nottingham.**

**Advice provided by Paul Rogers (Commercial Finance Business Partner (G&D)) on 23/03/2023.**

**Procurement Advice:**

**The decision seeks approval to accept grant funding, and then approval to spend that funding - all of the proposed does not pose any procurement risk to the Council. All of the procurement routes identified in Appendix C comply with the relevant rules and legislations. Advice provided by Holly Fisher (Lead Procurement Officer (Products)) on 11/05/2023.**

**Signatures**

<b>Angela Kandola (PH for Highways, Transport, Planning)</b>
<b>SIGNED and Dated: 15/06/2023</b>
<b>Sajeeda Rose (Corporate Director of Growth &amp; City Development)</b>
<b>SIGNED and Dated: 13/06/2023</b>