

# Operational Decision Record

Publication Date 23/07/24	Decision Reference Number 5149
<b>Decision Title</b>	
Agree to accept and spend the Active Travel Funding revenue grant for 2023/24	
<b>Decision Value</b>	
£174,126	
<b>Revenue or Capital Spend?</b>	
Revenue	
<b>Department</b>	
Growth and City Development	
<b>Contact Officer (Name, job title, and contact details)</b>	
Keith Morgan Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Manager <a href="mailto:keith.morgan@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">keith.morgan@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Decision Taken</b>	
Agree to accept the £174,216 Active Travel Funding revenue grant for 2023/24.	
<b>Reasons for Decision and Background Information</b>	
<p>This Active Travel Funding is a revenue grant awarded to local transport authorities on an annual basis. Its purpose is to support the development of active travel infrastructure and deliver transport behaviour change activity.</p> <p>An initial decision is required for the Council to accept the funding by the 6<sup>th</sup> of October. This requires the accompanying letter to be signed and returned to Active Travel England who are issuing the grant on behalf of the Department for Transport.</p> <p>The funding has been provided as an in year award with the intention of extending projects and spend from the 2022/23 allocation through to June 2024 with a stipulation that all funding should be spent by the end of December 2024.</p> <p>The funding is 50% of what was provided in 2022/23. The previous funding enabled projects to be started as well as internal resources to be used to design walking and cycling schemes to inform future capital funding bids and some transport behaviour change activity.</p>	

Funding is allocated on a formula basis alongside other factors including delivery, spend of previous grants and the local authority's capability ranking.

Not all of the Council's projects that were commissioned with the 2022/23 funding will be suitable for continuation and a review will take place to ensure best value is achieved with the reduced level of funding. This will allow projects to be procured or funding committed within the required timeframe.

An agreed monitoring arrangement is in place with Active Travel England. This monitoring and change control process ensures there is no risk of clawback of funding and the Council will not incur additional costs in spending the funding/delivering outputs.

The 2022/23 delivery programme was agreed by the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport and Planning. An updated programme will be taken for discussion and agreement and if additional approvals are needed under the Council's constitution these will be taken forward.

Due to a Government media embargo, restrictions on announcing the funding, is not expected to be lifted until after the 6<sup>th</sup> October deadline for the signed return. This decision will be published after we have been informed by the Government that the embargo has been lifted.

### **Other Options Considered and why these were rejected**

#### Not to accept funding

This would result in a loss of revenue funding which supports staff costs, informs future capital funding bids and funds partner activities. If the funding is not accepted it may impact on the Council's reputation with the Department for Transport to spend and deliver future transport programmes.

### **Reasons why this decision is classified as operational**

- The decision has a value below £300,000.
- Funding will be spent in line with existing agreed transport priorities and have no impact on wider budgets.

### **Additional Information**

#### **Procurement:**

The request to accept the funding and spend in line with the previously approved procurement plan (Appendix C) does not pose any procurement risk to the Council and should provide best value given the nature of the requirements.

Holly Fisher, Lead Procurement Officer, 26 September 2023

**Legal:**

This decision seeks to accept Active Travel Capability funding that is offered as an in-year settlement with the intention of extending projects and spend from the 2022/23 allocation through to June 2024 with a stipulation that all funding should be spent by the end of December 2024. There are a number of other stipulations imposed on the offer, in particular that the offer itself is presently under media embargo, which the Council must ensure if adheres to.

In accessing the market for suppliers and spending the funding, the Council will ensure it complies with its own constitution and relevant legal requirements.

Legal Services will continue to support colleagues, either in-house or using external legal support, with the preparation and execution of required contractual documentation.

Anthony Heath, Senior Solicitor, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

**Finance:**

The Decision to accept £174,216 funding from Active Travel England (a subsection of the DfT), with the intended use to continue projects already set up under a Previous DDM 4966. As per above a monitoring and change control process is already set up with Active travel to ensure no risk of clawback or overspend.

Therefore the proposal will not add financial pressure to the MTFP and can be contained within Transport and is supported. This will be monitored by the service for any variance and reflected in the monthly forecast for the service.

Paul Rogers

Commercial Finance Business Partner (G&CD)

26/09/2023

**Decision Maker (Name and Job Title)**

Sajeeda Rose - Corporate Director, Development

**Scheme of Delegation Reference Number****Date Decision Taken**

02/10/23