



Report of the Director of Place

External Funding Panel – 7 February 2018

Welsh Government Safe Routes in Communities Grant Application 2017/18 (Additional funds December 2017)

Purpose:	Provide additional information on Welsh Government Safe Routes in Communities Grant Application 2017/18
Policy Framework:	Emerging Five Council Key Priorities and Welsh Government Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance and Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) The External Funding Panel allows officers to accept Safe Routes in Communities (SRIC) additional grant funding.2) Projects are developed and implemented to create safer walking and cycling environments along Llangyfelach Street/Road to Cwm Level Road3) Projects are developed and implemented to create safer walking and cycling environments within Gower.
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information on the application to the Welsh Government for Safe Routes in Communities (SRIC) Grant funding and the additional funding that has now been provided by Welsh Government.

2. Detail of Proposals

- 2.1 The Safe Routes in Communities initiative enhances the provision of walking and cycling in communities, particularly outside and in the vicinity of schools. This is targeted at encouraging a more sustainable lifestyle in communities and addressing social exclusion issues.
- 2.2 The submission of funding is based upon an application to Welsh Government that occurs during the first quarter of the New Year for funding to be received during the following financial year and beyond. i.e. February 2017 to be delivered during 2017/18.
- 2.3 The initiative links to National Policies such as the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 Road Safety Framework for Wales 2013, Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Learner Guidance 2014. The overall aim is to create safer walking and cycling routes for communities and promote these as a more sustainable method of travelling around communities. It will also help to ease vehicular congestion outside schools as more sustainable methods of transport are used.
- 2.4 The initiative also supports the Council's own priorities in that it is safeguarding vulnerable people (Prevention of accidents to children and young people), improving pupil attainment (Involving pupils in the process), tackling poverty and building sustainable communities (Encouraging walking and cycling).
- 2.5 The original application included bids for the following three schemes:
- 1) Gower Area
 - 2) St. Thomas
 - 3) Llangyfelach Street/Road to Cwm Level Road
- 2.6 In March 2017 funding of £218,600 was confirmed for the St. Thomas scheme with the other schemes not successful in receiving funding. The scheme for St. Thomas has been progressed however officers were contacted by Welsh Government in November 2017 to ask what elements of the unsuccessful bids could be delivered during the remainder of this financial year. Welsh Government required a swift response and options were confirmed with our Cabinet Member.
- 2.7 On the 18th December 2017 Welsh Government confirmed revised additional funding for Safe Routes in Communities to include schemes for Gower and Llangyfelach Road to Cwm Level Road.

3. Equality and Engagement Implications

- 3.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Form has been completed with the agreed outcome that a full EIA report is not required.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The original funding for St. Thomas was based on a grant of £218,600 from Welsh Government in year 2017/18 with support of £34,800 of Section 106 contribution designed to support the overall initiative.
- 4.2 The additional revised grant funding is based on a grant of £110,300 for Llangyfelach Road to Cwm Level Road and a grant of £108,000 for the Gower Area. The grant provides 100% funding for the planned works.
- 4.3 There are no ongoing financial implications in relation to staff as the grant from the bids will include for design fees which support existing operations within Traffic and Highway Network Management.
- 4.4 The implementation of the work will impact on road maintenance budgets resulting in a modest increase of costs going forward in future years.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Highways Act 1980 Section 41(1) places a statutory duty of care on the Highway Authority towards road users of all kinds. The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 legislates for the provision of routes designed for walking and cycling. The success of this bid will help the Council in meeting its obligations in this regard.

Background Papers:

Letter dated 18 December 2017 from Welsh Government.
EIA Screening Form

Appendices:

None