



**Report of the Director of Place /
Cabinet Member for Environmental Services**

External Funding Panel – 7 March 2018

**Welsh Government Safe Routes in Communities Grant
Application 2018/19**

Purpose:	Provide information on Welsh Government Safe Routes in Communities Grant Application 2018/19
Policy Framework:	Emerging Five Council Key Priorities and Welsh Government Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance and Legal.
Recommendation(s):	<p>It is recommended that the External Funding Panel considers the application to Welsh Government for Safe Routes in Communities (SRIC) grant funding for 2018/19 and allows officers to accept any allocation made associated with the following submissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) The development of safer walking and cycling environments in the Gower area building on works already undertaken in the area.b) The development and introduction of safer walking and cycling environments in the Gorseinon and Penyrheol areas.c) The development and introduction of safer walking and cycling environments in the Llanyfelach and Mynyddbach areas.
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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 for 2018/19.

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 2018 to be delivered during 2018/19.

- 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 Operational Guidance 2014 and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. 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 application for funding in 2018/19 includes bids for the following three areas:

- 1) Gower Area
- 2) Gorseinon and Penyrheol areas
- 3) Llangyfelach and Mynyddbach

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 at this stage. This screening will be reviewed if the grant application is approved to ensure we continue to pay due regard to our equality duties.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The application for funding for each of the three schemes for funding in 2018/19 is as follows:
- 1) Gower Area -£364,800
 - 2) Gorseinon and Penyrheol areas -£352,000
 - 3) Llangyfelach and Mynyddbach -£224,000
- 4.2 The submitted bids include an element of match funding which Ward Members have committed through their Community Budget allocations. For the Gower area this is set at £27,000, whilst Gorseinon and Penyrheol Ward Members have committed a total of £10,000 in support of the bid for 2018/19. The proposed grant and contributions from Community Budgets provides 100% funding for the planned works
- 4.3 The Gower bid which involves the acquisition of land includes an assessment of future years funding covering 2019/20 and 2020/21. This has been estimated at £551,300 and £554,200 for each of these financial years respectively. It should be noted that confirmation of this funding will not be committed as part of this grant process but will be subject to future years bidding.
- 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. The acquisition of land will be required to comply with the Council's Land Transaction Procedure Rules detailed in the Council's constitution.

Background Papers:

None

Appendices:

Appendix A EIA Screening Form