



Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure Management

Cabinet – 20 September 2018

Financial Procedure Rule 7 Active Travel Fund Grant 2018/19

Purpose:	To confirm the outcome of the bid for Active Travel Fund (ATF) Grant and seek approval for expenditure on the proposed schemes and projects in 2018/19.
Policy Framework:	Joint Transport Plan for South West Wales (2015-2020); Active Travel (Wales) Act (2014).
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) the projects, together with their financial implications, are approved and included in the 2018/19 capital programme.
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 A funding bid for the Active Travel Fund (ATF) was submitted to the Welsh Government on 13th July 2018 in accordance with guidance from the Welsh Government.
- 1.2 The Active Travel Fund is a £60million funding pot, which will be allocated over 3-years (2018/19 to 2020/21). The guidance stated that from this total fund there was £10million available for 2018/19, which was to be split between two categories: 'Strategic Routes' (£4million) and 'Local Routes' (£6million).

- 1.3 The ATF is to be used for the delivery of Active Travel infrastructure in support of the Active Travel (Wales) Act (2013). A key requirement of the ATF is that the proposed projects be included in the Council's integrated Network Map. The preparation of this map is a mandatory requirement arising from the Active Travel (Wales) Act and sets out the Council's proposed active travel network to be delivered over the next 15 years.
- 1.4 This funding is available to all Welsh Local Authorities. The Welsh Government elected not to set a maximum value for each scheme, but rather suggested that bids in excess of £1.5million would be considered only in exceptional circumstances. Whilst match funding is not a requirement of the funding bids, it was made clear that those schemes that benefited from match funding would be more likely to receive an ATF allocation.
- 1.5 Despite the late invitation to bid for funding in 2018/19, the terms of the ATF require the schemes to be constructed and funding claimed by 31st March 2019.
- 1.6 Swansea Council submitted two bids totalling £3.614million, and the Welsh Government ultimately awarded funding amounting to £2.068million for FY2018/19.
- 1.7 This report seeks approval to commit these funds to the capital programme in accordance with the Financial Procedure Rules.

2. Submitted Bids

- 2.1. A total of £3.614million was bid for by Swansea Council. The bid schemes and the successful funding allocations are shown in the tables below.

Table One – Summary of ATF Bids 2018/19

Scheme	Total ATF (£k)	Match Funding (£k)	Total Project Costs (£k)
Strategic Schemes	1593	0	1593
<i>Swansea Vale Shared Use Link</i>	401	0	401
<i>Llansamlet Link</i>	205	0	205
<i>Tir Canol Link</i>	245	0	245
<i>Sketty Lane Widening</i>	117	0	117
<i>A48 Shared Use Link</i>	625	0	625
Local Schemes	2021	0	2021
<i>Cwm Level Link</i>	150	0	150
<i>Trallwn Link</i>	194	0	194
<i>Birchgrove Link</i>	119	0	119
<i>Singleton Park Links</i>	373	0	373
<i>Ynystawe Link</i>	264	0	264
<i>Morryston Riverside Link North</i>	240	0	240

<i>Morrison Riverside Link South</i>	65	0	65
<i>Jersey Road Link</i>	144	0	144
<i>Grovesend Access Link</i>	169	0	169
<i>Penyrheol Access Link</i>	202	0	202
<i>Coed Bach Park</i>	100	0	100
Total	3614	0	3614

- 2.2. Swansea Council was ultimately successful in securing £2.068million from the Welsh Government, spread across nine schemes for 2018/19. These schemes are summarised in the table below.

Table Two – Summary of ATF Allocations for 2018/19

Scheme	Total ATF (£k)	Match Funding (£k)	Total Project Costs (£k)
Strategic Schemes	968	0	968
<i>Swansea Vale Shared Use Link</i>	401	0	401
<i>Llansamlet Link</i>	205	0	205
<i>Tir Canol Link</i>	245	0	245
<i>Sketty Lane Widening</i>	117	0	117
Local Schemes	1100	0	1100
<i>Cwm Level Link</i>	150	0	150
<i>Trallwn Link</i>	194	0	194
<i>Birchgrove Link</i>	119	0	119
<i>Singleton Park Links</i>	373	0	373
<i>Ynystawe Link</i>	264	0	264
Total	2068	0	2068

3. Details of Approved Schemes

- 3.1. The projects approved for funding are summarised below.
- 3.2. **STRATEGIC SCHEMES:** The Welsh Government has allocated £968k to deliver four routes in delivery of the Swansea Northern Strategic Route. It is proposed that when fully realised, this northern route will provide off-road connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists between Birchgrove and Gorseinon. The four elements for delivery in 2018/19 are summarised below.
- 3.3. *Swansea Vale Link Road Shared Use Path:* This improvement will deliver a shared use path adjacent to the Swansea Vale Spine Road between Tir Canol Bridge and Gwernilwynchwyth Road. The route length will be 2.6km. This will facilitate an off-road link to local cycle routes, NCN43 and east-west walking and cycling movements.

- 3.4. *Llansamlet Link*: This project will link with off-road provision for pedestrians and cyclists that were completed in 2016/17 by Neath Port Talbot CBC. A new section of shared use path will provide new access to Llansamlet Railway Station and Swansea Vale from Birchgrove and Skewen.
- 3.5. *Tir Canol Link*: This route will connect the National Cycle Network Route 43 to Morriston Hospital via a new 2.1km route. This route, which runs across Tir Canol Playing Fields for part of its length, provides new connectivity for active travel journeys both locally and strategically in the context of the Northern Swansea route.
- 3.6. *Sketty Lane Widening*: This section of the NCN4 is a segregated shared use path, which does not currently conform to the Active Travel Design Guidance. This scheme will therefore widen this path to 5 metres total width to improve the capacity on this part of the network. The total length of the improvement will be 1.1km.
- 3.7. LOCAL SCHEMES: The Welsh Government has allocated £1.1million to deliver five routes that will directly benefit local areas, and provide improved connectivity into the strategic networks for active travel. The five elements are summarised below.
- 3.8. *Cwm Level Shared Use Path*: This 1.1km route will deliver a shared use path between existing provisions for cycling on Eaton Road and National Cycle Network Route 43. This will provide a significant enhancement for cycling in this area of the city; particularly for those accessing Liberty Stadium on match days, but also for the wide range of services which can be accessed from the National Cycle Network Route 43.
- 3.9. *Trallwn Link*: This link will provide a shared use path to link the Upper Bank Cycle Route to the community of Winch Wen and Trallwn. This off-road route, measuring approximately 1.5km will be invaluable in linking this community to established strategic cycling infrastructure in the vicinity of the Liberty Stadium, Swansea Enterprise Park & City Centre.
- 3.10. *Birchgrove Link*: This 0.7km route will complement the Swansea Vale Link which is being funded in the Strategic Routes project, to provide an off-road shared use path connection to the strategic active travel networks. Although short, this route will enable this community to bypass the busy arterial road network which acts as a barrier to the strategic networks which lie to the west of this settlement.
- 3.11. *Singleton Park Links*: This improvement will deliver 2.5km of enhanced shared use paths through the Park for use by pedestrians and cyclists. The routes will link NCN4 to Swansea University Singleton Campus, Singleton Hospital and the adjacent suburbs of Sketty, Uplands and Brynmill. The shared use paths will also be upgraded to accommodate occasional heavy goods traffic for special events.
- 3.12. *Ynystawe Park*: The community of Ynystawe and Ynysforan are geographically close to NCN43, but accessibility to it is poor, primarily due

to the severance caused by the River Tawe. This bid would deliver enhanced links to provide off-road shared use paths to provide safe and direct access between these communities and the established routes. This would deliver 0.6km of enhanced route, by clearing and surfacing an old off-road link between Clydach and Ynystawe, 0.2km of widened shared use paths in Ynystawe Park and a further 0.4km of new and widened shared use path to link with NCN43.

4. Equality and Engagement Implications

- 4.1. The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) and must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 4.2. The Equality Impact Assessment process ensures that the Council has paid due regard to the above.
- 4.3. An EIA screening has been undertaken (see appendix x) and the outcome is that no full EIA is required at this stage. If approved, the projects will consider their equality impacts more fully at the appropriate design stages when they will be screened in their own right. These transport infrastructure projects will all serve to improve public amenity, connectivity and access and will be the subject of consultation as appropriate. Close consultation with local disability and access groups will be undertaken to ensure accessibility for all.
- 4.4. All schemes will be designed in accordance with the national design guidance and will be compliant with the Equality Act 2010.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. The capital schemes described in this report are funded wholly by the ATF who will provide 100% grant funding for their delivery. The schemes must be completed and all grant funding claimed by 31st March 2019.
- 5.2. STRATEGIC SCHEMES: This project is comprised of four distinct elements. £968k has been allocated for the elements described in the report above.
- 5.3. LOCAL SCHEMES: This project is comprised of four distinct elements. £1100k has been allocated for the elements described in the report above.
- 5.4. Claims are to be made to Welsh Government on a quarterly basis. The grant must be claimed in full by 31st March 2019, otherwise it will be lost.
- 5.5. Any revenue costs arising from capital schemes will be met by existing revenue budgets.

6. Staffing / IT Implications

6.1. There are none.

7. Legal / Procurement Implications

7.1. The grant funding will contain terms and conditions, which are legally binding. The council will need to ensure that it is able to comply with the same.

7.2. All works and services required to deliver the schemes must be procured in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and European procurement legislation as appropriate.

Background Papers: Active Travel Fund Bid Documents
EIA Screening Form

Appendices:

Appendix A – Active Travel Fund: Strategic Routes Financial Summary

Appendix B – Active Travel Fund: Local Routes Financial Summary

Appendix C – Summary Plan of Proposed Active Travel Fund Routes 2018/19

Appendix D – Equality Impact Assessment

ACTIVE TRAVEL FUND: STRATEGIC ROUTES FINANCIAL SUMMARY**Portfolio: PLACE****Service : HIGHWAYS****Scheme : ATF – ACTIVE TRAVEL FUND: STRATEGIC
ROUTES FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

<u>1. CAPITAL COSTS</u>	2018/19 £'000				TOTAL £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>					
Swansea Vale Shared Use Path	401				401
Llansamlet Link	205				205
Tir Canol Link	245				245
Sketty Lane Widening	117				117
EXPENDITURE					
<u>Financing</u>					
LTF grant	968				968
FINANCING	968				968

<u>2. REVENUE COSTS</u>	2018/19 £'000				FULL YEAR £'000
<u>Service Controlled - Expenditure</u>					
Employees	)				0
	) To be met from existing budgets				0
Maintenance	)				0
Equipment	)				0
Administration	)				0
NET EXPENDITURE	0	0	0	0	0

**ACTIVE TRAVEL FUND: LOCAL ROUTES FINANCIAL
SUMMARY**

Portfolio: PLACE

Service : HIGHWAYS

**Scheme : ATF – ACTIVE TRAVEL FUND: LOCAL
ROUTES FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

<u>1. CAPITAL COSTS</u>	2018/19 £'000				TOTAL £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>					
Cwm Level	150				150
Trallwn Link	194				194
Birchgrove Link	119				119
Singleton Park Links	373				373
Ynystawe Link	264				264
EXPENDITURE					
<u>Financing</u>					
LTF grant	1100				1100
FINANCING	1100				1100

<u>2. REVENUE COSTS</u>	2018/19 £'000				FULL YEAR £'000
<u>Service Controlled - Expenditure</u>					
Employees	)				0
	) To be met from existing budgets				0
Maintenance	)				0
Equipment	)				0
Administration	)				0
NET EXPENDITURE	0	0	0	0	0

