



**Report of the Cabinet Member for
Environment & Infrastructure Management**

Cabinet – 13 December 2019

**Financial Procedure Rule 7 – Active Travel Fund
Additional Grant 2019/20**

Purpose:	<p>To confirm the outcome of the additional bid for Active Travel Fund (ATF) monies and seek approval for expenditure on the associated projects in 2019/20.</p> <p>To comply with Financial Procedure Rule No. 7 (Capital Programming and Appraisals): to commit and authorise schemes in the Capital Programme.</p>
Policy Framework:	Local Transport Plan 2015 – 2020
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	<p>It is recommended that:</p> <p>1) the additional ATF schemes, together with their financial implications, are approved.</p>
Report Author:	Ben George
Finance Officer:	Ben Smith
Legal Officer:	Caritas Adere
Access to Services Officer:	Catherine Window

1.0 Introduction / Background

- 1.1 A funding bid for the Local Transport Fund, Local Transport Network Fund and Active Travel Fund (LTF, LTNF and ATF) was originally submitted to the Welsh Government on 18th January 2019 in accordance with guidance from the Welsh Government. The funding bid was ultimately approved by the External Funding Panel and the Council was successful in securing £4.503million for the development and delivery of seven schemes.
- 1.2 The guidance stated that there was a total funding pot of £20 million for the Active Travel Fund, £27 million for the Local Transport Fund and £4 million for the Local Transport Network Fund in 2019/20. This funding is available to all Welsh Local Authorities. The Welsh Government elected not to set a maximum value for each scheme, but rather elected to set a banded scoring criteria, with higher values attracting a lower point allocation. 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 allocation.
- 1.3 The City & County of Swansea submitted bids totalling £16.859million, and the Welsh Government ultimately offered funding amounting to £4.503million on 15th May 2019 for FY2019/20. This funding was approved by Cabinet by way of an FPR7 report on 16th September 2019.
- 1.4 Subsequent to this initial approval, the Welsh Government approach Swansea Council in September 2019 to invite further bids for additional in-year funding (2019/20). Swansea Council therefore submitted additional bids for additional funding amounting to £3.161million on 20th September 2019. The Welsh Government subsequently offered an additional £2.755million on 7th November 2019.
- 1.5 Cabinet approval is therefore sought to commit these funds and the match funding offered to the capital programme in accordance with the Financial Procedure Rules.

2.0 Submitted Bids

- 2.1 Swansea Council received an invitation to bid for in-year funds from the Active Travel Fund in September 2019. Swansea Council subsequently bid for a further £3.161million on 20th September 2019. The details of this bid are set out in the table below.

Table One – Summary of Additional Bids for ATF 2019/20

Fund		Total Bid (£k)	Match funding (£k)	Total project cost (£k)
ATF	<i>Swansea Central Bridge</i>	1200	0	1200
ATF	<i>Gors Avenue to Broadway</i>	285	0	285
ATF	<i>A48 Link</i>	700	0	700
ATF	<i>Mumbles Rd / Mayals Rd Junction</i>	115	0	115
ATF	<i>Loughor Bridge Path Widening</i>	205	0	205
ATF	<i>Gors Ave / Carmarthen Rd Junction</i>	250	0	250
ATF	<i>Promenade Widening</i>	60	0	60
ATF	<i>Ridgeway to Clyne Valley Link</i>	346	0	346
Total		3161	0	3161

- 2.2 A funding offer for an additional £2.755million was subsequently received from the Welsh Government on 7th November 2019. This funding will be used to deliver six of the eight additional schemes bid for in 2019/20. The bid and the successful funding allocation are shown in the table below.

Table Two – Summary of Allocations for LTF, LTNF & ATF 2019/20

Fund		Total Bid (£k)	Match funding (£k)	Total project cost (£k)
ATF	<i>Swansea Central Bridge</i>	1200	0	1200
ATF	<i>Gors Avenue to Broadway</i>	285	0	285
ATF	<i>A48 Link</i>	700	0	700
ATF	<i>Mumbles Rd / Mayals Rd Junction</i>	115	0	115
ATF	<i>Loughor Bridge Path Widening</i>	205	0	205
ATF	<i>Gors Ave / Carmarthen Rd Junction</i>	250	0	250
Total		2755	0	2755

3.0 Details of Schemes

- 3.1 The projects approved for funding from the Local Transport Fund 2019/20 are summarised below.
- 3.2 Swansea Central Bridge –Swansea Council is embarking on an ambitious programme to regenerate its city centre. One of the most prominent infrastructure investments will be the Swansea Central Bridge, which will span Oystermouth Road, linking the Swansea Central retail development

in the city centre with the new City Centre Arena. The bridge will accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists, providing off-road access for sustainable travel to and from these prestigious developments and linking the users with the existing shared use provisions adjacent to Oystermouth Road and linking to National Cycle Network Routes 4 & 43. The bridge will provide a nationally significant, prominent and conspicuous endorsement of and provision for active travel.

The funding allocation of £1.2million will be used to purchase the materials required to construct the bridge. Installation of the bridge will commence in 2020/21.

- 3.3 Gors Avenue to Broad Way (via Cockett Road) Shared Use Path – The 1.78km of improvements to this section of the network will provide an important route in the channelling of pedestrians and cyclists towards the city centre from Cockett, Townhill and Tycoch in what are densely populated areas that experience significant levels of traffic congestion.
- 3.4 The route will run parallel to the A4216 and will be of great benefit to those attending the adjacent Gower College Swansea and for those continuing into the city centre.
- 3.5 The project will complement the Broadway Interchange project, which has been funded from the Local Transport Fund.
- 3.6 A48 Link – This improvement will deliver a shared use path adjacent to the A48 from the Llangyfelach Roundabout (M4 Jn46) to Penllergaer (M4 Jn47). This 2.7km route would provide a substantive section of the Swansea Northern Cycle Route. The improvement would provide an active travel route parallel to the M4 between junctions 46 and 47, and will provide improved connectivity between Llangyfelach, Penllergaer, DVLA and ultimately Morriston Hospital and the wider strategic network.
- 3.7 Mumbles Road \ Mayals Road Junction Improvement – This improvement will install two toucan crossings at the junction of Mayals Road & Mumbles Road. This is in service of two particular benefits. First, to improve an available walking route for pupils living in West Cross and travelling to Bishop Gore. Secondly the improvement will act as an enabler for further walking and cycling enhancements to Mayals Road which may follow in 2020/21.
- 3.8 Loughor Bridge Path Widening – National Cycle Network Route 4 passes over the Loughor Bridge. The bridge is however too narrow to safely accommodate cycling and hence there are 'dismount' signs either side of the bridge. The proposed works will widen the footway on the bridge by narrowing the traffic lanes in order to facilitate continuity for the route into Carmarthenshire.

- 3.9 Gors Avenue / Carmarthen Road Junction Improvement – This improvement will supplement the previously approved works to deliver a shared use path adjacent to Gors Avenue. This additional funding element will allow for widening and crossing facility at this junction for the improvement of provision and connectivity for walking and cycling.
- 3.10 The improvement will provide latent capacity for north-south travel to accommodate a shared use path on Carmarthen Road, for which the Council may seek funding in 2020/21.

4.0 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 Our Equality Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid to regard to the above.
- 4.3 An Equality Impact Assessment Screening Form has been completed. The outcome of the Assessment is that full Equality Impact Assessments will be required if these schemes are progressed.
- 4.4 All schemes will be designed in accordance with the national design guidance and will be compliant with the Equality Act 2010.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The schemes described in this report, rely upon the Active Travel Fund to provide grant funding to secure their delivery.
- 5.2 All schemes listed in this report are 100% reliant upon grant to secure their delivery.
- 5.3 Claims are to be made to the Welsh Government on a quarterly basis. The grant must be claimed in full by 31 March 2020 otherwise it will be lost.
- 5.4 Any revenue costs arising from capital schemes will be met by existing revenue budgets.

6.0 Staffing / IT Implications

There are none.

7.0 Legal / Procurement Implications

- 7.1 When delivering Transport Schemes, compliance will be required with the relevant Highways and Transport Act measure and guidelines. The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 puts an obligation on local authorities to provide walking and cycling infrastructure.
- 7.2 It will be necessary to ensure that all terms and conditions attached to external grant funding are complied with and that the Council's Financial Procedure Rules Regarding Grant Applications and Acceptances are followed.
- 7.3 The land required for these projects is wholly owned by the Council.
- 7.4 Planning Consent will be required for the Swansea Central Bridge and this is already in train. All other projects listed in this report are expected to be delivered under Permitted Development regulations.
- 7.5 Separate legal advice will need to be sought regarding any contract and procurement issues relevant to the schemes.

Background Papers: Local Transport Fund, Local Transport Network Fund and Active Travel Fund Bid Documents.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Swansea Central Bridge Financial Summary

Appendix B – Gors Avenue to Broadway Financial Summary

Appendix C – A48 Link Financial Summary

Appendix D – Mumbles Road / Mayals Road Junction Improvement Financial Summary

Appendix E – Loughor Bridge Path Widening Financial Summary

Appendix F – Gors Avenue / Carmarthen Road Junction Widening

Appendix G - EIA

APPENDIX A – SWANSEA CENTRAL FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Portfolio: PLACE

Service : HIGHWAYS

Scheme : ATF – SWANSEA CENTRAL BRIDGE

<u>1. CAPITAL COSTS</u>	2019/20 £'000				TOTAL £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>					
Materials Purchase	1200				1200
EXPENDITURE	1200				1200
<u>Financing</u>					
ATF grant	1200				1200
FINANCING	1200				1200

<u>2. REVENUE COSTS</u>	2019/20 £'000				FULL YEAR £'000
<u>Service Controlled - Expenditure</u>					
Employees	)				0
Maintenance	) To be met from existing budgets				0
Equipment	)				0
Administration	)				0
NET EXPENDITURE	0	0	0	0	0

APPENDIX B – GORS AVENUE TO BROADWAY FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Portfolio: PLACE

Service : HIGHWAYS

Scheme : ATF – GORS AVENUE TO BROADWAY

<u>1. CAPITAL COSTS</u>	2019/20 £'000				TOTAL £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>					
Works	285				285
EXPENDITURE	285				285
<u>Financing</u>					
ATF grant	285				285
FINANCING	285				285

<u>2. REVENUE COSTS</u>	2019/20 £'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

APPENDIX C – A48 LINK FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Portfolio: PLACE
Service : HIGHWAYS
Scheme : ATF – A48 LINK

<u>1. CAPITAL COSTS</u>	2019/20 £'000				TOTAL £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>					
Works	700				700
EXPENDITURE	700				700
<u>Financing</u>					
ATF grant	700				700
FINANCING	700				700

<u>2. REVENUE COSTS</u>	2019/20 £'000				FULL YEAR £'000
<u>Service Controlled - Expenditure</u>					
Employees	)				0
Maintenance	) To be met from existing budgets				0
Equipment	)				0
Administration	)				0
NET EXPENDITURE	0	0	0	0	0

APPENDIX D – MUMBLES ROAD / MAYALS ROAD JUNCTION FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Portfolio: PLACE
Service : HIGHWAYS
ATF – MUMBLES ROAD / MAYALS ROAD
Scheme : JUNCTION

<u>1. CAPITAL COSTS</u>	2019/20 £'000				TOTAL £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>					
Works	115				115
EXPENDITURE	115				115
<u>Financing</u>					
ATF grant	115				115
FINANCING	115				115

<u>2. REVENUE COSTS</u>	2019/20 £'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

APPENDIX E – LOUGHOR BRIDGE FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Portfolio: PLACE
Service : HIGHWAYS
Scheme : ATF – LOUGHOR BRIDGE

<u>1. CAPITAL COSTS</u>	2019/20 £'000				TOTAL £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>					
Works	205				205
EXPENDITURE	205				205
<u>Financing</u>					
ATF grant	205				205
FINANCING	205				205

<u>2. REVENUE COSTS</u>	2019/20 £'000				FULL YEAR £'000
<u>Service Controlled - Expenditure</u>					
Employees	)				0
Maintenance	) To be met from existing budgets				0
Equipment	)				0
Administration	)				0
NET EXPENDITURE	0	0	0	0	0

**APPENDIX F – GORS AVENUE / CARMARTHEN ROAD JUNCTION
FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

Portfolio: PLACE
Service : HIGHWAYS
**Scheme : ATF – GORS AVENUE / CARMARTHEN ROAD
 JUNCTION**

<u>1. CAPITAL COSTS</u>	2019/20 £'000				TOTAL £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>					
Works	250				250
EXPENDITURE	250				250
<u>Financing</u>					
ATF grant	250				250
FINANCING	250				250

<u>2. REVENUE COSTS</u>	2019/20 £'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