

MEETING OF COMMISSIONER KENNY
Tuesday, 21st July, 2015

Present:- Commissioner J. Kenny.

Also in attendance Councillor D. Lelliott, Advisory Cabinet Member.

- 22. WHILST THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 DO NOT APPLY TO THIS MEETING IT IS STILL PROPOSED TO DETERMINE IF THE FOLLOWING MATTERS ARE TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER THE CATEGORIES SUGGESTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THAT ACT.**
- 23. DFT AND CARPLUS ELECTRICALLY ASSISTED PEDAL CYCLE (EAPC) HIRE AND YORKSHIRE BIKE LIBRARY CYCLING FUNDING BIDS.**

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Transportation and Highways Design Projects Manager (Streetpride, Environment and Development Services Directorate). The report outlined two intended bids to be made on behalf of the Council to the Department for Transport and the Yorkshire Bank Bike Library Fund.

The Projects Manager provided a background on current cycle provision in Rotherham, including the successful track record of working with the Sheffield City Region to operate the Local Transport Plan as part of the Transport Strategy. This included the provision of cycling services free at the point of use. The Council had operated a very successful public cycle hire project over the past three years. This was operated out of the Mobile Cycle Hub.

The two proposed bids would complement and extend the operation of the Mobile Cycle Hub: -

- **Carplus Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycle Fund: -**

The first funding opportunity was the 'Carplus Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycle Fund'. It was a £500,000 fund, provided by the DfT aimed at promoting the use of Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycles (EAPCs) through public hire and better understanding the benefits for riders, the environment and transport networks. Car Plus will administer the fund and monitor the schemes delivered.

Rotherham was currently the only local authority to offer EAPC public hire across its whole administrative area and was well placed to meet the aims of the Carplus EAPC project. The bid to the 'Carplus EAPC Fund' would be for £50,000 to extend the number of EAPCs available for hire from 40 to 70. The bid consisted of £37,500 capital funding for the bike purchases and £12,500

revenue funding in respect of additional staffing and repair and maintenance costs.

The additional capacity would address the current high demand for EAPCs as the Council's existing public hire scheme was consistently oversubscribed.

- **Yorkshire Bank Bike Library Fund: -**

The second fund available was the Yorkshire Bank sponsored 'Bike Library' fund, which was one of the 2014 Tour de France (Yorkshire Grand Depart) legacy projects with the fund provided to establish children's bike libraries. These would provide a fleet of children's bikes available in deprived areas where children may not have access to bicycles of their own. The fund would provide up to £10,000 to each successful library 'host' organisation.

The £9,300 sought would be used to provide, manage and maintain a fleet of children's bikes. Again this would be made available to children as one of the services offered by the Mobile Cycle Hub.

Discussion on the proposed bids followed. Commissioner Kenny and Councillor Lelliott asked for more information on: -

- Long-term sustainability of the projects and funding schemes available;
- Whether contractors were paying their staff the Living Wage;
- The uses of the Mobile Cycle Hub and the benefits that it could bring to partnership work and potential income generation.

Commissioner Kenny was satisfied that both bids should be submitted. Given the short timescales available for their submission she agreed that her decision should not be required to stand for consultation for five-days and should be implemented immediately. She committed to agreeing this approach with the Lead Commissioner, Sir Derek Myers.