

Public Report
Improving Places Select Commission

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Places Select Commission – 22 March 2022

Report Title

Active Travel, Update

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report provides an overview and update on progress of the Council's approach to delivery of Active Travel measures.

Recommendations

That the contents of this report be noted.

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Report to IPSC 16th March 2021 Transportation – Active Travel, Transforming Cities
Update

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

1. Background

- 1.1 The Improving Places Select Commission has requested an update in respect of active travel in Rotherham.
- 1.2 The new Rotherham Cycling Strategy was adopted by the Council in January 2022. This will inform development and delivery of active travel schemes in the Borough going forward.
- 1.3 The main funding streams specifically relating to delivery of active travel in Rotherham currently in progress are: -

- Transforming Cities Fund, including:
 - £ 6.8 million for new cycleways along Sheffield Road
 - £ 0.5 million contribution to improvement to Frederick Street, creating a new cycle route
 - £ 0.4 million for a new link between Wath town centre and existing routes to employment, housing and green space at Manvers
- Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 & SYMCA Gainshare, £1.5 million for new cycleways along Broom Road.
- In addition to the Council's existing LTP funded programme for improved road safety and pedestrian crossings, further funding for pedestrian crossings of:
 - £120,000 of local RMBC funding approved for 2021-22 and
 - £100,000 of local RMBC funding is approved for 2022-23.
 - supplemented by continuation of the £150,000 funding in 2022-23 proposed for the Neighbourhood Road Safety Programme.

While not directly “badged” as active travel funding, the measures delivered by these funds correlate well to improving the appeal of and confidence in active travel.

- 1.4 The next rounds of funding RMBC is currently bidding for Active Travel works are listed below and include access to a new fund from the Department for Transport (DfT) under the title of City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) which will replace the existing Local Transport Plan (LTP) funding in 2022: -

- DfT Active travel fund tranche 3 - £1.1m for extension of cycleways on Broom Road.
- DfT CRSTS – including a bid for £36.9 million over 5 years for public transport improvements but also schemes incorporating new cycleways, crossings and/or low traffic neighbourhoods.

Further information will be available once it is available following confirmation of funding.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Transportation Service is developing new processes for the prioritisation and inception of projects, including those under the Local Neighbourhood Transport Improvements block under the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS). Whilst this block will be led by other considerations, this approach will allow wider active travel benefits to be wrought from that programme. This will support delivery of the cycling strategy.
- 2.2 Part of this work will be to modernise the prioritisation mechanism for new or improved pedestrian crossings, to better respond to pedestrian needs.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Options for scheme selection are considered at the time each bid is compiled. This considers all possible different options that could be used to achieve the outcomes for each scheme and assesses the relative benefits and disbenefits. The option submitted for funding is that which presents the best benefit-to-cost ratio based on transportation scheme analysis.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Consultation takes place for each scheme at the time of full business case preparation when detailed design considerations need to be taken into account. Scheme delivery engagement takes place immediately preceding the start of construction for each scheme to ensure works delivery accommodates user road user and community requirements during construction phases.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

This update does not require a decision; however the key next steps are as follows: -

- Delivery of Transforming Cities Programme – expected completion March 2023.
- Delivery of Active Travel Fund tranche 2 - ongoing to 2023.
- Funding announcement expected for ATF3, CRSTS – March 2022.
- Delivery of ATF3 – 2023.
- Delivery of CRSTS – 2027.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)

- 6.1 The Council's Active Travel programme is funded from both revenue and capital funding streams provided from a mix of RMBC local funding and Department for Transport grant funding.

7. Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendation within this report. Where external providers are involved, they are procured using the Council's Procurement & Contract Procedure rules. Changes to local traffic management arrangements are delivered using statutory process under Roads Traffic legislation for the making of Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs).

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no Human Resources impacts related to the approval of this report's recommendations. Work on the delivery of the Active Travel programme is contained within the Council's Transport Infrastructure Service and within existing or procured consultancy and works services procured in accordance with the Council's contract procedure rules.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 Provision of safe and accessible cycle lanes on the highway contribute to the Council's objectives for "thriving neighbourhoods" and "better health & wellbeing".

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 All schemes receive an Equality Screening and where identified as needed will progress to a full Equality Assessment. This ensures all schemes are designed and constructed to take account of the needs of all road users.

11. Implications for Partners

- 11.1 Key stakeholder partners in this programme are South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), which includes the former South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority (SYPTA), all four member authorities where they boundary Rotherham council boundaries. The programme relates to the SYMCA Active Travel Implementation Plan. These partners are engaged in joint delivery of the Active Travel and Transforming Cities programmes.
- 11.2 A range of other partner organisations exist on the subject of Active Travel such as cycling interest groups and associations, Parish/Town Councils with an interest in improving their local environment, educational establishments, as well as disability groups who wish to see the interests of their members accommodated in schemes affecting the highway and wider public realm. These groups will be engaged during the consultation process and their feedback considered prior to adoption of the final strategy.

12. Risks and Mitigation

Scheme and programme risks are managed as part of the ongoing project management. Appropriate mitigations are put in place to ensure compliance with good practice and procedure.

13. Accountable Officer(s)

Andrew Moss, Interim Head of Transport Infrastructure

Approvals obtained on behalf of:-

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive		Click here to enter a date.
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.
Assistant Director of Human Resources (if appropriate)		Click here to enter a date.
Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)		Click here to enter a date.

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This report is published on the Council's website.