

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods
2.	Date:	12th January 2015
3.	Title:	Local Sustainable Transport Fund 2
4.	Directorate:	Economic and Development Services

5. Summary

To report the latest award of Local Sustainable Transport Funding (LSTF2) for 2015/16 and to outline the associated transport projects that will be funded in Rotherham.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet Member resolves to support the LSTF2 work underway to enable the DfT endorsed programme of works to commence by April 2015

7. Proposals and Details

Rotherham MBC and neighbouring South Yorkshire local authorities (Sheffield, Doncaster, Barnsley and SYPTA) have been awarded 3 successive grants after bidding into the Government's Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) via the ITA. Since the first successful bid in 2011, LSTF has delivered capital and revenue funded sustainable transport projects in two 'travel to work' corridors, one between Rotherham Town Centre and the Sheffield boundary and the other from the town centre up to and including the Dearne Valley. Following the latest bidding round in Spring 2014, the Department for Transport awarded South Yorkshire a further £4.72M (including risk and inflation factors) to continue and refine existing revenue funded LSTF projects in 2015/16. South Yorkshire is the only Metropolitan area to receive all of the revenue funding it bid for because the associated projects are widely considered to be best practice and exemplar. The projects in the current bid are as follows:

Cycleboost (Cycle Hubs) – In Rotherham, our existing revenue funded LSTF projects have built a cycling support network that has removed many of the barriers associated with cycling. Support projects include free electric and pedal bike hire aimed primarily at commuters / getting people into work, free rider skills training, free group rides (part funded by British Cycling supported Sky Rides) and a free Dr Bike basic repair and maintenance service. In schools, LSTF funds the highly successful Sustrans Bike IT project. Demand for these projects has demonstrated that there is a strong public appetite for cycling in Rotherham. Accordingly, during 2015/16, DfT have provided further funding for a mobile cycling hub vehicle - the first of its kind - which will house our existing support services and will take them into more public places, local businesses, schools and events. Unlike previous years, LSTF projects will be extended to cover the whole of the Borough in 2015/16. The hub will be a fully liveried open sided display vehicle capable of hosting Dr Bike sessions, hire bikes, specialist advisors, promotions and other services such as health and road safety information. Similar projects will operate in Sheffield, Doncaster and Barnsley although these hubs will be in fixed premises, mainly in town centres.

Successive Governments have attached great importance to the development of cycling as a mode of travel. Most recently the Government has published a draft 10 year Cycling Delivery Plan for England which summarises their vision for cycling and the role everyone – government, the wider public sector, stakeholders, business and individuals – has to play in making cycling the natural choice for short journeys. The Delivery Plan brings together recommendations from numerous Government enquiries and commissions including:

Get Britain Cycling - a pro cycling report published in April 2013 by the All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group.

Tacking Physical Activity: A Co-ordinated Approach – a report published in April 2014 by the All Party Commission on Physical Activity which proposed that cycling has a key role in improving health and reducing obesity.

Moving More, Living More – a cross Government commitment to increase physical activity for all age groups.

The Government is keen to work with local authorities that show vision, leadership and ambition and there is some suggestion in the Cycling Delivery Plan that favourable resources would be made available to progressive local authorities (for example, via future rounds of LSTF). It can be assumed that this would inevitably be at the expense of unsupportive local authorities however at the moment Rotherham's innovative approach to cycling would not fall into that category.

The Hub project will be subject to and comply with Financial Rules and Standing Orders via an approved tender process facilitated by the Central Procurement Team.

Job Connector Bus Service - an SYPTTE led project to improve express bus frequency between Barnsley, Manvers (Rotherham) and Doncaster to reduce journey times by up to 20 minutes.

South Yorkshire Wheels to Work – This scheme is currently part of the highly successful "Access to Opportunities" scheme to provide motor scooters over a 3-6 month period to enable people who have been offered or are already in a new job or training opportunity, but are without motorised or public transport, to access their place of work, training or education. People are loaned a scooter for 6 months and encouraged to save to enable them to fund a transport option later.

Travel Choices – The Bus Boost project provides car commuters with a free 1 month trial public transport pass to encourage them to use buses, trams and trains instead of a car for their daily car commute. Around one third of people continue to use public transport after their 1 month trial has ended.

Provision of one-to-one training, personal travel plans and free bus tickets has reduced the demand for Council supported taxis or minibuses, whilst achieving positive educational, employment and health outcomes for individuals with special needs or disabilities. It is likely that successful trainees will not revert back to council supported transport.

Safe and Sustainable Travel – 2,000 business car drivers will be targeted via workplaces in 2015. They will learn about reducing aggressive acceleration and braking, correct tyre pressures and reducing use of air-conditioning and overloading. In addition 14,700 young (17-25) drivers will be trained through colleges to encourage safer driving. Based on the average distance driven for work purposes per day, fuel savings will be around 13% but the main aim is casualty rate reduction in the 16-25 age band.

Eco Stars - The Efficient and Cleaner Operations (ECO) Stars Fleet Recognition scheme was launched in 2009, as part of a regional Air Quality Initiative. Commercial vehicles now make a significant contribution to local emissions in terms of pollutants, and greenhouse gas emissions, and there are a number of AQMAs within South Yorkshire. The ECOSTARS Fleet Recognition project provides public recognition for operators of commercial vehicles who are improving local air quality. The scheme is open to operators of all types of commercial vehicle. The South Yorkshire ECO Stars scheme was supported by the EU as part of the ECOSTARS Europe project and results are now being formally evaluated by them. A local survey carried out in December 2013 indicated that 79% of participants "had increased their knowledge of the tools and approaches to fuel efficiency" and had saved in the range of 1-11% in fuel

usage as a result of applying ECO Stars advice. The funding awarded will allow this project to continue and widen its engagement.

Transport Academy - LSTF2 will provide funding to train bus drivers in the role of public transport in the economy and in the environment and how good service to customers including those with disabilities such as dementia, contributes to its delivery. This will improve the journey experience for a group of people who frequently cite poor experience poor access as a major barrier to securing opportunities for learning, development and employment.

Electric Vehicles Plugged in Project - This scheme provides a pool of electric cars and vans from which businesses can hire electric cars and light vans for a trial period at a discounted rate. The project also includes the installation of a network of rapid chargers across the region. The first public fast charger in Rotherham has recently been installed in the Drummond Street car park.

South Yorkshire Intelligent Transport System – During previous rounds of LSTF, considerable progress has been made towards implementing a greater degree of bus priority and adaptive traffic signal timings to optimise the balance of costs and benefits among users. These systems are already largely in place, or funded separately, but require considerable analysis and testing to before optimal strategies can be activated in real time. In Rotherham, ongoing revenue expenditure is required to optimise and manage the system.

Inmotion – With so many projects on offer via LSTF, it is essential that local people and businesses are aware of them. Therefore, LSTF includes a marketing component in the form of a single e-brand (Inmotion!) which is used across all schemes. A programme of activity which includes a dedicated website, media releases and direct marketing has encouraged public and private sector buy-in. Inmotion marketing activities will continue throughout LSTF2.

8. Finance

The funding programme for LSTF2 in 2015/16 is outlined in Table 1.

Table 1

Cycleboost / Cycle Hubs				
Project	LSTF2 (£)	Match (£)	Rotherham Total Benefit (£)	Rotherham Funded Match (£)
Cycle Hubs and Services	1,065,712	167,148	295,000a	47,000
Sky Rides	109,000	285,750	18,000a	40,250
Bike It	281,385	165,000	56,277a	21,000
Cycle Infrastructure Grants	117,500	35,000	25,000a	10,000
Cycle Safety	20,000	4,000	5,000a	1,000
Job Connector Bus Service	440,000	0	88,000e	0
SY Wheels to Work	217,642	96,616	48,359e	0
Travel Choices				
Busboost	441,524	78,000	103,904e	0
Travel Training	68,974	2,000	14,195e	0
Independent Travel Training	187,045	104,000	58,209e	0

Safe and Sustainable Travel				
Powered 2 Wheeler Safety	25,000	25,000	10,000e	0
Safer Travel Campaigns	120,000	45,000	33,000e	0
Safer / Eco Driving	304,400	145,000	89,880e	0
SY Eco Stars Fleet Recognition	160,000	35,000	39,000e	0
Delivering Excellence (PT)	40,000	18,500	11,700e	0
Transport Academy				
Excellence in Disability and Dementia (PT)	25,000	13,500	7,700e	0
Recruitment Excellence in PT	49,500	14,000	12,700e	0
Electric Vehicles Plugged In Project	96,000	21,500	23,500e	0
SY Intelligent Transport System				
Traffic and Travel Enhancements BMBC	80,000	20,000	0	0
Real Time Evolution DMBC	90,000	10,000	0	0
Traffic Signals Optimisation BMBC	60,000	6,600	0	0
UTMC Enhancements RMBC	50,000	10,000	50,000a	10,000
Adaptive Strategies Enhancements SCC	50,000	10,000	0	0
Inmotion	280,730	10,978	58,341e	0
Monitoring	18,400	5,000	4,680	0
TOTALS Exc Risk and Inflation	4,397,812	1,327,652	1,052,481	129,250*

(a) Denotes actual allocation

(e) Denotes estimated allocation based on 20% share of the South Yorkshire wide allocation

Where Rotherham has no match fund commitment, a proportion of match fund is included in the Rotherham total benefit

* Match split: Approximately £25,000 from RMBC and £104,250 from external sources e.g. bike retailers, Sustrans and British Cycling.

LSTF requires a degree of match funding to support the DfT grant. The majority of the match funding (£129,250) associated with Rotherham comes from partners such as Sustrans, British Cycling, local bike retailers and suppliers and added value from service providers. The remaining £25,000 will be met from the 2015/16 Local Transport Plan Allocation.

There are several options for funding some of the Rotherham LSTF projects beyond 2016. Discussions are underway to assess the viability of funding the Hub concept from Section 106 developer contributions in support of Travel Plans conditioned as part of new developments, from the LTP or Public Health funds, from future bids into transport related grant funding from a combination.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

DfT has allocated funding for projects delivered between 1st April 2015 and 31st March 2016. No carry forward of funding is permitted beyond 31st March 2016 therefore it is important that the projects are able to be delivered on programme. As of mid-November 2014, delivery timescales are tight but are on schedule.

Three successful LSTF bids since 2011 have brought around £38M of transport funding into South Yorkshire with around £7.6M directly benefitting the Borough and a further £2M of indirect benefits. The Council's ability to bid for future grants will be dependent on continued levels of resourcing for staff who develop and submit funding bids.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The proposed projects accord with the objectives set out in the Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy 2011-26 and Rotherham's Community Strategy 2012-15.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

The LSTF bid document relevant to this report was submitted to DfT by the South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority and is titled: Inmotion, Altogether Better Travel, Local Sustainable Transport Fund 2015/2016 Revenue Application. The document can be viewed here: www.inmotion.co.uk/lstfbid. LSTF2 is primarily a funding extension bid and no additional consultation was required by DfT prior to the bid being submitted.

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