

**From:** Michael Payne, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport  
Barbara Cooper, Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport

**To:** Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee – 17 July 2020

**Subject:** DfT Emergency Active Travel Fund

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Summary:** This paper provides an update on the DfT's Emergency Active Travel Fund.

**Recommendation(s):**

The Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee is asked to note the content of the report.

## 1 Background

- 1.1 On the 9th May 2020 the Secretary of State for Transport announced that the Government would be providing funding to enable Local Highway Authorities to implement Active Travel schemes to make roadspace safer and more accommodating for pedestrians and cyclists as the UK emerges from lockdown. The funding announcement on 27th May indicated that Kent could be allocated a total of up to £8.1million.
- 1.2 On 28<sup>th</sup> May officers were advised this funding would be allocated in two 'tranches' and would require the submission of a pro-forma. The detail of the requirements and expectations for the second tranche is still unknown. DfT also advised all Authorities that they must submit a proforma for the first tranche (£1.6m for KCC) within 6 working days by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June. Only upon the success of this bid would the tranche 1 funds be allocated.
- 1.3 On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June the DfT advised we had been successful in our submission and were to receive the full £1.6m of funding (grant letter to follow). This is confirmation that our submission was fully in line with the objectives of the fund; to facilitate active travel in light of the pandemic and to 'lock in' the benefits of the increased active travel we have seen.
- 1.3 DfT remind us that works must start on site within 4 weeks of receipt of funding and completed within 8 weeks. We are still awaiting guidance on Tranche 2 funding (on both criteria and timelines) and the DfT have asked us to be even more ambitious with the next stage of proposals.

## 2 The Report

- 2.1 Officers will need to respond very quickly to this allocation, to ensure compliance and strengthen our position regarding the opportunities for the remaining £6.4million. With the DfT requirements in mind officers have highlighted the proposals which can be implemented with temporary measures and within 8 weeks of the funding arriving. These schemes include:

ASH	Re-purpose carriageway to pop	Elwick Road, Ashford – Temp road closure and footway widening
ASH	Re-purpose carriageway to pop	A2042 New Street, Somerset Road and Mace Lane – pop up cycle lane
CANT	Modal Filter	St Dunstan’s Street modal filters and footway widening
CANT	PROW	Improvements to the Crab and Winkle cycleway
C’WIDE	Cycle improvement schemes	Footway siding out and vegetation clearance
C’WIDE	PROW	Public rights of way improvements
C’WIDE	School schemes	Safer Travel to School schemes, such as Drapers Mill
C’WIDE	Reactive Signs/Barriers	COVID Signs and barriers bought at risk
DART	Repurpose carriageway to pop	Lowfield Street 2-way segregated cycle route
DOVER	Other	parking near castle
DOVER	Repurpose carriageway to pop	A256 Maison Dieu Road – pop up cycle lane
F&H	Cycle improvement schemes	Phase 4B cinque ports cycle route scheme
G’SHAM	Repurpose carriageway to pop	Milton Road, Gravesend – footway widening / pop up cycle lane
MAID	Modal Filter	Earl Street, Maidstone – road closure
MAID	Repurpose carriageway to pop	King Street cycle scheme
SEV	Repurpose carriageway to pop	A25 Bradbourne Vale Road – pop up cycle lane
SWALE	20 scheme	Faversham town wide 20
T WELLS	20 scheme	Tunbridge Wells TC 20
T&M	20 scheme	Tonbridge town wide 20
T&M	Repurpose carriageway to pop	A26 Pembury Road to Brook Street – pop up cycle facilities
T.WELLS	Cycle improvement schemes	A26 light segregation of Phase 1
T.WELLS	Modal Filter	Reynolds Lane–road closure/access only to encourage use by foot
T.WELLS	Modal Filter	Tunbridge Wells High Street One way to provide wider footways
T.WELLS	Modal Filter	Commercial Road, Paddock Wood One way to provide wider footw
THANET	20 scheme	Margate town centre 20mph
THANET	Modal Filter	Harbour Street and Albion Street, Broadstairs –point closures
THANET	Repurpose carriageway to pop	Station Road, Westgate – One way to provide additional space

2.2 These schemes have come from the long database of suggestions compiled over many years from various sources including Member requests, suggestions from the public, local transport strategies, customer enquiries and district and borough walking and cycling plans.

2.3 The first tranche of works has only been able to include the schemes that are deliverable with this funding in these very tight timescales. Considerations such as road space availability, utility works and Traffic Regulation Orders are key constraints to note. There is still work to do to confirm if the schemes listed above will all be deliverable as this is very recent announcement from Government. Once confirmed and confidence around delivery in Tranche 1 is in place the relevant County Members will be informed of any work proposed in their areas.

2.4 In line with the commitment made by the Cabinet Member, shared at the Scrutiny committee, Members are welcome to submit further ideas which can help formulate an expansive list for Tranche 2. Officers have made contact with all County Members to share the long list and invite additional comments and suggestions.

### 3 Next Steps

3.1 Subject to successful delivery of the tranche 1 works, we hope to be in a position to secure the 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche of funding from the DfT of up to £6.4 million. Until a response is received from the DfT we cannot indicate the timescales for commencement of works for tranche 2 works. Officers are not in a

position to be able to prioritise or apply any sort of criteria to the database of schemes to guide Members until the DfT provide guidance on how tranche 2 will be assessed and allocated. We have been advised that tranche 2 is likely to be subject to a “proportionate” business case submission. Once this process becomes clearer we will share details with members.

#### **4 Recommendation(s)**

The Environment and Transport Committee is asked to note the content of the report.

#### **Contact details**

Report Author:

- Lead officer: Nikola Floodgate
- Job title: Schemes Planning & Delivery Manager
- Phone number: 03000 416239
- E-mail: [nikola.floodgate@kent.gov.uk](mailto:nikola.floodgate@kent.gov.uk)

Relevant Director:

- Lead Director: Simon Jones
- Job title: Director of Highways, Transportation & Waste, GET
- Phone number: 03000 411683
- E-mail: [simon.jones@kent.gov.uk](mailto:simon.jones@kent.gov.uk)