

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Matthew Balfour

Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste

DECISION NO:

17/00044

For publication

Subject matter: Step Ahead of the Rest (StAR) - Sustainable Travel Revenue Programme

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste I agree to accept the DfT funding to enable the StAR programme to be delivered. Specifically this comprises approval to spend this grant in order to:

- i) Pay staffing costs associated with delivering the programme;
- ii) Delegate authority to the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste to procure, award and amend contracts as necessary; and
- iii) Make grants to transport operators, community interest companies and businesses, in accordance with our agreement procedures.

Reason(s) for decision:

StAR is an important scheme which accords well with County Council policies to keep Kent moving, to improve accessibility, reduce congestion and pollution and encourage active travel to benefit the economy, the environment and public health. At a time of severe and ongoing budget pressures on the County Council this is a welcome injection of revenue funding to enable the Council to remain at the forefront of delivering transport innovations to support the travel needs of Kent's residents and businesses.

Financial Implications:

The programme is externally funded, made up of DfT grant and external partner match funding. A small amount of match funding has been provided by the County Council in the form of staff time to deliver the Workplace Travel Challenge and oversee the programme. The payments to the County Council will be released by DfT in 2 segments each year: 75% in July and 25% in the following May.

Legal implications:

KCC will enter into legal agreements with partner organisations who are delivering individual projects. This will secure agreement for the delivery as outlined in the bid to the DfT.

Equality Implications:

An EqIA has been carried out and is attached at Appendix B. No adverse impacts on protected characteristic groups were found. It was found however that some groups may benefit less from certain projects promoting walking and cycling than others. Actions to address this are included in the EqIA action plan. There is significant potential for positive outcomes for certain protected

characteristic groups as a result of the programme.

Comments received from members consulted:

None

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

To refuse the external funding and continue the status quo would mean that the StAR programme could not be delivered.

Any conflict of interest declared by any executive member consulted by the decision maker and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

None



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signed



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date