



POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

8 NOVEMBER 2023

REPORT TITLE:	ACTIVE TRAVEL FUNDING – TRANCHE 3
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND PLACE

REPORT SUMMARY

The Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee at its meeting on 16 October 2023, resolved that:

1. the Director of Regeneration and Place be authorised to utilise the £1,625,000 from Active Travel Fund Tranche 3 received by the Council from Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to support the delivery of the Conway Street/Europa Boulevard Movement Scheme; and
2. the Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to approve that the Capital Programme for 2023/2024 be amended so that the additional £1,625,000 grant funding from the Active Travel Fund Tranche 3 allocated to the Council by Liverpool City Region Combined Authority be allocated to the Conway Street / Europa Boulevard Movement Scheme.

This report seeks approval to amend the 2023/2024 capital programme to allocate the funding to the Conway Street/Europa Boulevard Movement Scheme.

The Wirral Plan 2021-2026 sets out the Council’s vision to secure the best possible future for our residents, defined by the community prosperity we create and supported by our excellent people and services. This proposal directly supports the following key themes within that plan:

- A cleaner, greener borough which celebrates, protects and improves our environment and urgently tackles the environmental emergency;
- A prosperous inclusive economy where local people can get good jobs and achieve their aspirations; and
- Safe, vibrant communities where people want to live and raise their families.

This matter affects the Birkenhead and Tranmere Ward.

This is a Key Decision owing to the significance in terms of the effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the Borough, as well as being in excess of £500,000 in monetary value.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Policy and Resources Committee is recommended to:

Authorise that the Capital Programme for 2023/2024 be amended so that the additional £1,625,000 grant funding from the Active Travel Fund Tranche 3 allocated to the Council by Liverpool City Region Combined Authority be allocated to the Conway Street/Europa Boulevard Movement Scheme.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 The funding outlined in this report has been allocated to the Council for the delivery of the specific project identified and cannot be used for any other purpose. If the funding was not accepted, it would have to be returned to the LCRCA.
- 1.2 To ensure that the Council achieves the delivery of regeneration and active travel projects within the Borough as identified in the Birkenhead Regeneration Framework and as part of a Liverpool City Region (LCR) wide programme of projects and interventions.
- 1.3 To ensure that the Council supports projects which will deliver increased levels of sustainable travel as set out in the emerging Local Plan and to support actions required to address the Climate Emergency and the target in the Cool2 Strategy to 'a complete transition to fossil fuel free local travel by around 2030'.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Other options have been considered and are included within the minutes of the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee and the appended report.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Council via the LCRCA had previously been awarded £2,225,000 from the Active Travel Fund Tranche 3 programme to support the delivery of the Conway Street/Europa Boulevard Movement Project. On 19th October 2022 the Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee approved (amongst other matters) that the Director of Regeneration and Place be authorised to accept and allocate the grant funding of £2,225,000. The Active Travel 3 ("ATF3") funding was provided to support the £3,904,059 of Future High Street Funding that had already been awarded to the Conway Street/Europa Boulevard scheme. In November 2022 Active Travel England invited authorities to review their Tranche 3 projects with a view to addressing the impact of inflation since the original bid was submitted.
- 3.2 On 15 December 2022 the LCRCA submitted a change control request to Active Travel England to seek additional funding to address the impact of inflation and also to increase the scope of the scheme to include additional public realm and active travel facilities to link the proposed Conway Street super crossing to Claughton Road.
- 3.3 On 14th March 2023 Active Travel England notified the LCRCA that the funding bid for ATF3 for Conway Street/Europa Boulevard had been successful and, subject to a design review and inspection to be undertaken

with Active Travel England, an additional £1,625,000 had been awarded to the scheme.

- 3.4 Two phases of consultation have been undertaken on the Conway Street/Europa Boulevard scheme and on 24 June 2023 the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee delegated the power to make a decision regarding the outcome of the Phase 2 statutory consultation undertaken regarding the Birkenhead Town Centre Movement Schemes to the Director of Neighbourhoods, to be taken in consultation with the Chairs of both the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee and the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee. The feedback from the consultation is currently being considered by officers and responses are being prepared which will be reported to the Director of Neighbourhoods shortly.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution any decision regarding land and property including major acquisition and disposals, which includes reserved decision making concerning any purchase, sale or transfer of a value in excess of, or likely to exceed, £500,000, (unless the Committee has delegated this function in relation to a specified area or business plan as the Committee may determine) must be referred to Policy and Resources Committee.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 In accordance with Part 3B of Constitution (Committee Terms of Reference), the Policy and Resources Committee has two main areas of responsibility, which is to provide strategic direction to the operation of the Council, including making decisions on policies and co-ordinating spend not reserved to full Council, and to maintain a strategic overview of outcomes, performance, risk management and budgets.
- 5.2 The Policy and Resources Committee is charged by full Council to provide a coordinating role across all other service committees and retain a 'whole-council' view of performance, budget monitoring and risk management. In particular, this includes specific responsibility for a decision on any sale of land or property by a Committee or officer of a value of in excess of £500,000.
- 5.3 As part of the matter of business that was the subject of the report to Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee falls under that responsibility reserved to the Policy and Resources Committee, the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee's resolution is presented as a recommendation.
- 5.4 As the decision in this matter is the subject of a recommendation from another Committee, the Policy and Resources Committee must take into account the resolution of that Committee and give due regard to the guidance and comments made by its members. The Policy and Resources Committee must

not, however, consider itself bound by that Committee's recommendations or otherwise fetter its discretion; its Members must come to their own decision. In doing so, the Committee must satisfy itself that it has been provided with all relevant information or a suitable précis to enable it to comply with its duties and make a lawful decision.

5.5 Other legal considerations are as set out in the appended report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 This report is for information only and does not contain any direct resource implications.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 The relevant risks are covered in the original report submitted to the Committee.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Engagement and Consultation are covered in the original report submitted to the Committee.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Whilst there are no equality implications arising from this report, the associated actions arising from the delivery of the individual programmes may result in a further need to assess any equality issues and mitigate any negative impact that may emerge.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Environment and Climate implications are covered in the original report submitted to the Committee.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 This project helps deliver Wirral's wider Community Wealth Building commitments to deliver a prosperous, inclusive economy that benefits local residents. Further Community Wealth implications are covered in the original report to the Committee

REPORT AUTHOR: Bryn Griffiths
Senior Democratic Services Officer
Law and Governance,
Tel 0151 691 8117
bryngriffiths@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Minute Extract

Appendix 2 Full Report

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Gear Change Plan for Cycling and Walking – Department for Transport July 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cycling-and-walking-plan-for-england>

Gear Change Plan One Year One– Department for Transport July 2021

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1007815/gear-change-one-year-on.pdf

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee Active Travel Funding	08/06/2021
Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee Future High Streets Fund Movement Schemes	19/10/2022
Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee Active Travel Funding – Tranche 3	19/10/2022
Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee Birkenhead Road Active Travel Scheme	08/03/2023
Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee Birkenhead Town Centre Movement Schemes	24/06/2023
Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee Active Travel Funding – Tranche 3	16/10/2023