

# North Yorkshire Council

## Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee

30 May 2024

### Economic, Regeneration, Tourism and Transport Project Development Fund for the Area Constituency Committees

#### Report of the Corporate Director (Community Development)

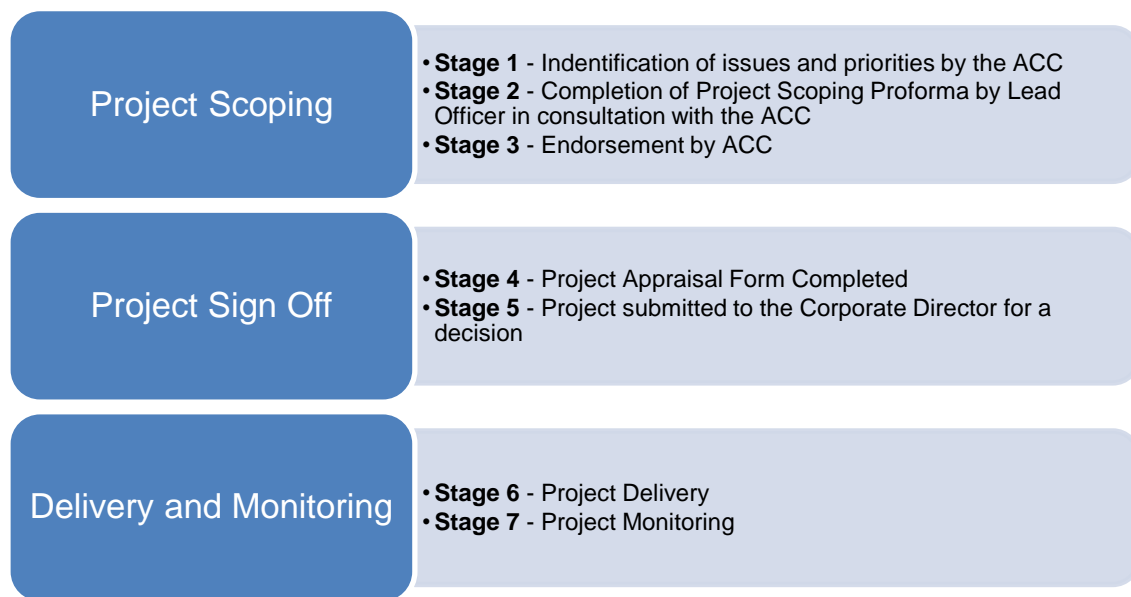
#### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update following the call for project ideas under the Economic, Regeneration, Tourism and Transport Project Development Fund ('the fund').
- 1.2 To present completed Project Scoping Forms for three priority projects and seek endorsement for these from the Harrogate and Knaresborough ACC.
- 1.3 To seek agreement as to which other project ideas to take forward for possible support through the fund.

#### 2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the meeting of North Yorkshire County Council on 22 February 2023 (*Council Minute 83p*), in respect of the 2023/24 Revenue Budget for North Yorkshire Council, it was resolved that, "*£50k be provided annually for each Area Constituency Committee to commission works they feel appropriate for their local area*".
- 2.2 The purpose of the fund is to support activities that help to deliver the North Yorkshire Council 'Council Plan', Economic Growth Strategy, Destination Management Plan and other locally important plans and strategies. It aims to stimulate and directly support a pipeline of locally important economic, regeneration and tourism destination development projects that will benefit from existing and future funding and delivery opportunities (whether core or external funding) within the area covered by the respective Area Constituency Committee.
- 2.3 The scope of activity to be supported, within the purpose of the fund, is at the discretion of the specific Area Constituency Committee (ACC) but could include:
  - activity to further develop locally important projects that would form part of a wider capital project pipeline including surveys, feasibility studies, outline or detailed design and market demand analysis. It can also fund business case development of locally important projects or contribute to the ongoing development of larger, major projects so the Council is well placed to secure funding (core or external) and to assist in developing grant-ready applications.
  - targeted contributions that add value to existing or planned physical regeneration or tourism activity and show tangible benefits to address a locally important issue or priority in that area.

2.4 The following chart outlines the process for the development, endorsement and approval of projects as detailed in the Economic, Regeneration, Tourism and Transport Project Development Fund Guidance Note (January 2024).



2.5 Following an initial discussion about the fund at an informal meeting of the Harrogate and Knaresborough ACC on 2 February 2024, Members were invited to submit project ideas. A long list was created to include all ideas raised at the initial meeting as well as those subsequently submitted. A follow-up informal meeting was held on 23 April 2024 to discuss the long list and agree priorities.

2.6 ACC members in attendance on 23 April agreed to prioritise the projects based on the following key criteria:

- Does the proposal meet the purpose and main themes of the fund?
- Is other funding available that would enable the project to be progressed without support from the ACC?
- Is there a realistic chance that the project could attract further funding / support to allow it to be progressed after the feasibility/initial work from the ACC fund?

Five projects were subsequently identified as potential priorities, and the others classified as either 'possible' or 'not a priority for the ACC fund at this time'.

2.7 Scoping Forms have now been completed for three of the priority projects. Further information has been sought on the remaining priority projects and those deemed as 'possible'.

### 3.0 CONSIDERATION OF PROJECT SCOPING FORMS AT THIS MEETING

3.1 The Project Scoping Forms submitted for consideration at this meeting through the Economic, Regeneration, Tourism and Transport Project Development Fund are as detailed in Table 1. below:

**Table 1.** Project Scoping Forms presented in this report.

Project Title	Summary Description	Value of Budget Requested
Decarbonising the Knaresborough	To carry out some 'fabric first' works at the Knaresborough Wellbeing Hub to unlock	£20k

Wellbeing Hub and creating green energy	SPF funding. This will support a project to reduce the carbon footprint of the building by updating its infrastructure and installing solar panels and EV chargers.	
Harrogate Cycling Infrastructure Plan: Corridor 2	To complete preliminary design work for Corridor 2 of the Harrogate Cycling Infrastructure Plan (HCIP), from Bilton to Hornbeam.	£40k
A59 Harrogate to Knaresborough missing link – cycle route	To complete preliminary design work on the A59 cycle path link to provide continuous walking, wheeling and cycling route between High Bridge, Knaresborough and A59, near the Golf Club, Harrogate.	£10k

3.2 The completed Scoping Forms for each of the above projects are available to view at Appendix A.

3.3 It should be highlighted that the ACC fund contribution to the HCIP Corridor 2 project has increased by £10k from the original estimate previously discussed with ACC Members. Earlier estimates had been provided by WSP but the council's new framework consultants, Align Property Partners, have now advised that additional feasibility work will be needed within certain sections. This has increased the total cost for the study to c.£78,000. Further details are included in the Scoping Form attached. Due to the increased cost of this project, NYC Highways have agreed to fund the shortfall from their Capability Fund.

#### 4.0 HARROGATE AND KNARESBOROUGH ACC BUDGET INFORMATION

4.1 At the meeting of the 20 February 2024 (draft Minute 403.c) the Executive agreed the carry forward of any unallocated sums for each of the Area Constituency Committees into 2024/25 for one year only.

4.2 The financial position of the budget allocated to the Harrogate and Knaresborough ACC through the Economic, Regeneration, Tourism and Transport Project Development Fund is therefore as detailed in Table 2 below:

**Table 2.** Harrogate and Knaresborough ACC Budget Allocation:

Item	Value
Budget Available (2023/24 carried forward and 2024/25)	£100,000
Value of projects approved to date	£0
Balance of budget available	£100,000
Projects submitted for consideration in this report	
Decarbonising the Knaresborough Wellbeing Hub	£20,000
Harrogate Cycling Infrastructure Plan: Corridor 2	£40,000
A59 Harrogate to Knaresborough missing link	£10,000
Balance of budget available if the above projects are recommended to and approved by the Corporate Director	£30,000

## 5. CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL PROJECTS FROM THE PROJECT LONGLIST

- 5.1 Harrogate and Knaresborough ACC Elected Members were invited to submit ideas or proposals to utilise the combined 2023/24 and 2024/25 £100,000 budget ahead of an informal meeting on 23 April 2024.
- 5.2 All suggestions submitted before and during the meeting are outlined in Table 3 below.
- 5.3 Three of the priority project ideas have been progressed with full Scoping Forms now completed, as per Section 3 above. Further detail of the remaining potential priority projects and all possible projects has been collected from Members if required, and initial discussions undertaken with any relevant internal services to ascertain viability. This is summarised in the 'Comments/Preliminary Investigations' column in the table below. The projects that are deemed not to be a priority for ACC funding at this time are also included in the table for completeness.

**Table 3.** Longlist of Project Proposals and priority recommendation

Proposed Project	Supplementary Description	Comments / Preliminary Investigations	Likely ask of the ACC Fund
Priority Projects – Scoping Form submitted as part of this report			
Decarbonising the Knaresborough Wellbeing Hub and creating green energy	To carry out some 'fabric first' works to unlock SPF funding. This will support an existing project, championed by Knaresborough Town Council (KTC), to reduce the carbon footprint of the building by updating its infrastructure and installing solar panels and EV chargers.	A preapplication to the UKSPF Community Climate Action Grant Programme has been submitted by KTC who have now been invited to progress the full application. ACC funding could provide the required match-funding to unlock the SPF grant. NYC Property Services are currently reviewing existing condition surveys to understand the detail of the scope of works and to confirm costs and timescales. It is expected that some elements of the works can be financed by NYC but that an additional contribution from the ACC fund will add value and encourage a higher level of investment by highlighting this project as a priority for the community. It is noted that this project also positively links to a funded scheme for improvements to the play facilities in this area. It would also support community cohesion and programming, working alongside Museums and Libraries.	£20,000
Harrogate Cycling Infrastructure Plan (HCIP): Corridor 2	To carry out preliminary design work for the provision of cycle infrastructure from Bilton to Hornbeam, to unlock future funding for delivery.	The economic assessment within HCIP Phase two report showed the route has a BCR of 8.49, and an estimated uplift of 1,612 additional cycle trips per day. This is estimated to save 203,000 car km per year and 17.7 CO2 tonne equivalent per year. Scope of work required has now been discussed with Align Property Partners and costs confirmed. These are	£40,000

		<p>significantly higher than those initially presented to the ACC, but if the ACC agree to contribute £40k, NYC Highways have agreed to fund the shortfall.</p> <p>This would result in a 'bid ready' scheme with possible future funding for delivery identified via the Active Travel Fund and the Local Transport Fund through the Combined Authority.</p>	
A59 Harrogate to Knaresborough missing link – cycle route	Feasibility/ preliminary design to unlock future funding for delivery.	<p>The missing link provides an opportunity to develop a 'low cost', 'quick win' scheme that would make use of existing infrastructure (a shared use path on southern side of the A59) to form a continuous route between High Bridge, Knaresborough and A59, near the Golf Club, Harrogate.</p> <p>ACC funded designs would allow bids to be made for delivery, including to the Active Travel Fund and the Local Transport Fund through the Combined Authority.</p>	£10,000
Potential Priority Projects – additional information sought			
Starbeck Level crossing	Feasibility study / options appraisal to seek to improve traffic movements.	<p>Building on a study by Network Rail (NR), NYCC commissioned surveys in October 2019 at five level crossings, including Starbeck, to assess barrier down times, queue lengths and traffic counts over a 12-hour period. NR produced a cost plan report in August 2020 detailing the costs for recommended improvements. An Economic Assessment subsequently concluded that the scheme at Starbeck was unlikely to provide measurable benefits, with a BCR of only 0.8 over a 60-year appraisal period.</p> <p>However, it was recommended that further work be undertaken given future growth in the area/corridor, potential changes to rail services and subsequent impact these may have on the Starbeck level crossing.</p> <p>Officers are currently exploring whether the ACC fund could be used to support this future modelling work. Future funding to progress to detailed design is yet to be identified, but there are a number of potential sources such as 3rd party funding from developers, improvements as part of any future Harrogate to York re-signalling work and as part of mitigation measures due to enhancements to the Leeds/Bradford airport service impacting Starbeck level crossing.</p>	
Public toilets in Harrogate town centre	Renovation of public toilets – suggested at	The NYC Public Conveniences Manager has confirmed that many of the toilets across NY are unfortunately	

	Victoria Shopping Centre, Harrogate	<p>outdated. The team are looking to pull together a multi-year strategy for improvement works and there may be access to funds further down the line. Consideration could be given to using some ACC funds to fast track this work.</p> <p>The public toilets at Victoria Shopping Centre are not managed by NYC and so they would not therefore be included. It has unfortunately not yet been possible to arrange a conversation with Victoria Shopping Centre management.</p>	
Possible Projects			
Land Train Pilot	To hire a 'Land Train' for a limited period as a proof-of-concept study.	<p>Initial research suggests that a Land Train supplied, delivered and operated per day costs c.£1795.00 plus VAT. There would of course be additional costs to carry out a comprehensive impact assessment and to develop a business case.</p> <p>Possibility to develop more detail to progress for pilot in October half-term or Christmas holiday.</p> <p>This links to the wider 'connectivity' project in Knaresborough.</p>	
Parking Strategy for Knaresborough	Parking strategy and feasibility study/options appraisal to assess the potential benefit of a 'Park & Ride' scheme.	<p>NYC currently have no budget to progress this work but would be supportive of commissioning consultants if the ACC were able to allocate funds.</p> <p>Any brief would need to be detailed with real objectives.</p> <p>Future funding unknown, but the Local Transport Fund through the Combined Authority could be a possibility.</p>	
Knaresborough Bus & Coach Station	Detailed plan to reimagine and revitalise the bus and coach station area.	<p>The bus/coach station is owned and run by Transdev, alternative locations have been considered but no suitable options identified. NYC Highways currently reviewing the accessibility of the area, considering one way street, build outs to improve crossing points. Note that some elements would require Traffic regulation orders and legal processes which may cause delay, though this is probably not insurmountable.</p> <p>Possibility that ACC funds could be considered to support delivery, though the fund is not designed to fully fund or deliver new capital projects.</p>	
'Wayfinding Strategy' for Knaresborough Town Centre & Riverside	Strategy to provide new interpretation of public space, signage, maps & visitor information.	Project links to priorities for the castle area, but current uncertainty on future funding after consultancy work undertaken.	
'Augmented Reality Tourism	Design, produce, maintain and develop	Would need to consider costs of ongoing updates as the ACC fund	

App' for Knaresborough	an innovative free mobile app (or suite of apps) for visitors.	cannot support projects that create additional or ongoing unfunded budget or maintenance costs. Question mark from some Members on who would benefit.	
Knaresborough High Street improvements	Strategy & design document to enhance the High Street	As above, NYC Highways currently reviewing the accessibility of the area, considering one way street, build outs to improve crossing points and location of loading bays but they have no funds to deliver this. Possibility that ACC fund could be considered to support delivery, though the fund is not designed to fully fund or deliver new capital projects.	
Harrogate Cycling Infrastructure Plan: Corridor 1	Feasibility study into the provision of cycle infrastructure from Bilton to Starbeck	The economic assessment within HCIP Phase two report showed the route has a BCR of 6.39, and an estimated uplift of 1,926 additional cycle trips per day. This is estimated to save 242,000 car km per year and 21.1 CO2 tonne equivalent per year. A number of potential future funding delivery routes have been identified, including the Active Travel Fund and the Local Transport Fund through the Combined Authority.	£20,000+
Harrogate Cycling Infrastructure Plan: Corridor 3	Feasibility study into the provision of cycle infrastructure from Jennyfield to Harrogate	The economic assessment within HCIP Phase two report showed the route has a BCR of 1.5, and an estimated uplift of 27 additional cycle trips per day. This is estimated to save 3,000 car km per year and 0.26 CO2 tonne equivalent per year. A number of potential future funding delivery routes have been identified, including the Active Travel Fund and the Local Transport Fund through the Combined Authority.	£20,000+
Harrogate Cycling Infrastructure Plan: Corridor 4	Feasibility study into the provision of cycle infrastructure from Hornbeam Park	The economic assessment within HCIP Phase two report showed the route has a BCR of 2.23, and an estimated uplift of 98 additional cycle trips per day. This is estimated to save 12,000 car km per year and 1.03 CO2 tonne equivalent per year. A number of potential future funding delivery routes have been identified, including the Active Travel Fund and the Local Transport Fund through the Combined Authority.	£15,000+
Flaxby to Knaresborough walking and cycling route	Feasibility / preliminary design	A walking/cycling route that would run alongside the existing rail corridor, passing along the northern boundary of the Manse Farm and Highfield Farm developments and so create increased sustainable travel options. The route also passes along the boundary of Flaxby Green Park industrial development and presents a future opportunity to extend the route and link	£25,000

		into the proposed Maltkil development. There is potential for a future link all the way to York. As above, a number of potential future funding delivery routes have been identified, including the Active Travel Fund and the Local Transport Fund through the Combined Authority.	
Not a current priority for the ACC Fund			
Knarborough's Courthouse Museum and surrounding area	Detailed plan (including management plan) to reimagine and rejuvenate the Courthouse Museum & surrounding castle grounds.	Project being progressed by NYC's Culture and Leisure. Programmed and budgeted for delivery over the next c.2 years. Whilst the ACC will be involved in the plans going forward, there is no added value that the ACC fund can provide at this stage.	NA
Knarborough House & Grounds	Options review to address lack of use and enhance outdoor events space.	Knarborough House is a listed building, owned by NYC. There is no known funding available to progress this project beyond feasibility.	NA
Active Travel Assessment for Knarborough	Support the existing project by providing VivaCity cams/sensors.	Cameras/sensors are useful to provide targeted support for priority work areas, but unless there is a purpose in mind, they are potentially of limited value.	NA
Harrogate Town Council - future proposals	Preparation of strategy documents, frameworks and project ideas to help establish regeneration priorities.	Proposals yet to be developed. Also minded that NYC Democratic Services are already well-placed to support this process.	NA
Public Art installation	Iconic art installation within the local area, possibly at a key gateway.	Agreed by ACC members at informal session that other projects have greater merit for this funding at this time.	NA
Employment sites – e.g. Pannal	Feasibility / masterplanning to help bring forward allocated employment site(s) for development.	Agreed by ACC members at informal session that consideration is being given to such sites as part of the Local Plan so not considered to be a priority for this fund.	NA

- 5.4 ACC Members are asked to agree whether to endorse any of the Project Scoping Forms referred to in Section 3 above, and depending on the remaining budget, which of the remaining priority projects and possible projects should be progressed further. The additional schemes selected will undergo a more detailed project scoping process, with fully completed scoping forms returned to the next Harrogate and Knarborough ACC meeting for a decision on the allocation of remaining funds.

## 6.0 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN AND RESPONSES

- 6.1 Members of this Committee have been consulted throughout the process.

## 7.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 Members may choose not to formally endorse the priority projects presented in this report.
- 7.2 Members may choose not to progress any of the additional schemes outlined in this report and may choose to seek further suggestions from Elected Members or Officers.



## **8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report. Subject to the endorsement of this Committee, the proformas at Appendix A will be presented to the Corporate Director for allocation of the budget.

## **9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report. However, it is noted that any procurement going forward will be carried out in accordance with the council's procurement and contract procedure rules.

## **10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no direct equality implications from the recommendations in this report, though some of the priority projects recommended for progression will have positive longer-term impacts on equality, as detailed in the Scoping Forms. Initial Equality Impact Assessment Screening Forms for the projects that have undergone the Project Scoping process are included at Appendix B.

## **11.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no direct climate change implications from the recommendations in this report, though some of the priority projects recommended for progression will have positive impacts on climate change, as detailed in the Scoping Forms. Climate Change Screening Forms / a Climate Change Impact Assessment for the projects that have undergone the Project Scoping process are included at Appendix C.

## **12.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

12.1 To enable allocation of the Economic, Regeneration, Tourism and Transport Project Development Fund available to this Committee.

## **13.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- i) endorse the Project Scoping Forms for the following projects:
  - Decarbonising Knaresborough Wellbeing Hub
  - Harrogate Cycling Infrastructure Plan: Corridor 2
  - A59 Harrogate to Knaresborough missing link
- ii) subject to endorsement, request that the agreed Scoping Proformas are presented to the Corporate Director (Community Development) for the relevant projects to be funded from the Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee budget allocation.
- iii) subject to funds remaining, consider whether they wish to progress any of the additional 'potential priority' or 'possible' proposed schemes outlined above.
- iv) issue a further call for potential schemes to Harrogate and Knaresborough ACC members if no endorsements for the above listed projects are secured.

## APPENDICES

- Appendix A
  - Decarbonising Knaresborough Wellbeing Hub Scoping Form
  - Harrogate Cycling Infrastructure Plan: Corridor 2 Scoping Form
  - A59 Harrogate to Knaresborough missing link Scoping Form
  
- Appendix B
  - Equalities Impact Assessment Screening Form for Knaresborough Wellbeing Hub
  - Equalities Impact Assessment Screening Form for HCIP Corridor 2
  - Equalities Impact Assessment Screening Form for A59 missing link
  
- Appendix C
  - Climate Change Impact Assessment for Knaresborough Wellbeing Hub
  - Climate Change Screening Form for HCIP Corridor 2
  - Climate Change Screening Form for A59 missing link

Nic Harne  
Corporate Director – Community Development  
County Hall  
Northallerton  
30 May 2024

Report Author – Rebecca Micallef, Economy Officer  
Presenter of Report – Rebecca Micallef, Economy Officer

Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.