

North Yorkshire Council

Richmond and Northallerton Area Committee

16 September 2024

Proposals for the Allocation of the Economic, Regeneration, Tourism and Transport Project Development Fund

Report of the Corporate Director (Community Development)

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 For Members to consider project proposals under the Economic, Regeneration, Tourism and Transport Project Development Fund;
- 1.2 to agree the proposals put forward by the Steering Committee that meet the objectives of the fund and can be completed within the required timescales; and
- 1.3 to approve an emergency in-person meeting in October to agree the Scoping documents for the endorsement of proposals;

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A previous report to the (then) Area Constituency Committee (ACC) on 18 September 2023 set out the background to the Economic, Regeneration, Tourism and Transport Project Development Fund (the "Development Fund"), its scope, and the process for allocation for funding. In summary, the purpose of the fund is 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 within the respective Areas.
- 2.2 The £50k Development Fund allocation for 2023/24 has already been carried forward into 2024/25. Together with the £50k budget for 2024/25, this gives an overall amount of £100k available in the current financial year. To date, none of the funding has been allocated to a project so the full £100k is still available.
- 2.3 It is understood that carry forwards are only considered in exceptional circumstances, so further carry forwards beyond March 2025 are not considered to be an option. This means that the £100k will need to be allocated and spent before the end of 2024/25 – otherwise the funding will transfer to the general reserve and be 'lost' to the area.

3.0 PROPOSED PROCESS

- 3.1 Any projects endorsed by the Area Committee (AC) will each have to have Project Scoping Reports and both Climate Change and Equalities Impact Assessments completed. These will need to be evaluated and discussed with the Executive Member for Open to Business, and then signed off by the Director of Community Development.
- 3.2 Rather than seeking Committee approval to a list of projects for which Scoping Reports are subsequently completed and reported to the *next* Committee in three months' time, Officers

are proposing to hold an extraordinary meeting in October to review the Scoping Reports and endorse the projects to take forward for final approval and sign-off.

3.3 Each of the projects endorsed by the Committee in September and agreed following a full scoping in October would then be subject to the following process:

- *Evaluation of proposal*
- *Discuss with Executive Member for Open to Business*
- *Final approval & sign-off by the Director of Community Development*

4.0 CONSIDERATION OF PROJECT SHORTLIST

4.1 A number of project ideas have been put forward since the scheme was launched, with 5 taken forward to be explored further. From this list, 3 have been recommended by the steering committee to be reviewed at this meeting, with 2 not recommended due to them not meeting the scheme criteria.

4.2 The following table sets out the shortlist of the 5 projects which were reviewed at the steering group on 30th August 2024. Those Recommended to proceed meet the fund criteria and can be delivered by March 2025:

Proposed Project	Description & Preliminary Investigations	Indicative Cost	Recommended by Steering Group to Proceed
<p>Parking Spaces for Private Hire Taxis at Hildyard Row (White Shops)</p>	<p>Taxi companies operating at Hildyard Row in Catterick (known as White Shops) had utilised space just off the highway to park when taxis are not being used. This space was taken by EV charging points leaving the taxi companies with limited parking options. 30 mins free is available on the highway and at the neighbouring NYC car park, but a longer period of free parking has been requested.</p> <p>After consultation with NYC parking services, any removal of public parking spaces for commercial business parking would require a financial address, such as the purchase of a permit but this fund could not be used to purchase individual permits.</p> <p>However, the fund could be used to cover the cost of two spaces, to be utilised by any local taxi firms, which could be marked out for a set period.</p> <p>The cost of each space would be £930 per year and multiple licence plates could be associated with these spaces. The additional cost of the Traffic Regulation Order and lining will also be covered.</p> <p>The spaces would either revert back to public spaces after this time or alternative funding would have to be found.</p>	<p>£7,000 for three years</p>	<p>Yes</p>

	<p>The project would provide support to providers of a key service to residents in the local area whilst a more long term solution is sought.</p> <p>Please note that this change will require a sign off process via the Environment directorate which will be reviewed through the full scoping document if approved. In addition, TRO's are subject to consultation that may impact delivery.</p>		
<p>Transport scheme to support individuals to get to places of work, study and health provision</p>	<p>Issues have been raised by both employers and residents around the provision of public transport options in our more rural areas. It can be difficult for those without their own transport, to access transport at the right times (or at all) for work, study and health needs. Similarly, employers can struggle to take on workers who do not have their own transport due to the lack of provision.</p> <p>This project proposes conducting research into the gaps in public transport provision across Richmond's rural areas, identifying where it is hardest to reach employment and places of study and health provision. It will work with large employers in the area (Wensleydale Creamery and Leeming bar have been identified) and a sample of small businesses to understand the issues they have with employment and transport and also look at the transport issues faced by existing staff at the employment sites.</p> <p>A feasibility study will then be produced, identifying short term opportunities to improve transport to work, study and health provision options and any funding requirements, and also identify longer term opportunities that could feed into the Local Transport Plan, and the Mayor Combined Authority.</p> <p>This works supports the economic growth of both residents of our rural areas and our large employers and supports longer term considerations for the Local Transport Plan. It is identified that results from this more localised study will be relevant for many rural areas and large employers across the county.</p>	<p>Estimated that the cost of the study is £50k</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>A684 Morton Flatts Responsive signage project</p>	<p>The A684 provides a strategic route from Northallerton to the A1, and the employment centre of Leeming Bar. It also provides a key route for tourism linking the nations parks of</p>	<p>The total cost of the signage and installation is</p>	<p>Yes</p>

	<p>the Moors and Dales. The closure of the road due to flooding causes significant impact to road users.</p> <p>The proposal will provide signs that will illuminate to advise that the road is closed upon the point of water breach which will give traffic an instant message as they approach the locations. This gives them the opportunity to turn round and utilise the signed diversion. This will also assist the Area highways team and emergency services in their flood response as it gives an instant message to traffic this should reduce the reduce the numbers of abandoned/trapped vehicles in the floods, allowing the emergency services to focus on other priority areas and the highways team time to focus on getting the hard closure in place.</p> <p>The works would involve:</p> <p>Installation of sensor at point where flood water breaches the carriageway</p> <p>Provision and installation of Electronic signage ('Road closed due to flooding') at Warlabby Cross Roads and to the west at the eastern roundabout junction with Bedale By pass</p> <p>Moving existing flip type signage at the above locations to new locations</p> <p>The work to reduce flooding on the A684 at Morton Flatts is a significant infrastructure project which is being explored independently of this proposal but these measures would reduce the impact that flooding will have on road users (up to 12,000 a day), highways teams and emergency services. It improves safety for the travelling public and supports the usage of the diversion at times of flooding, inturn, reducing the time people will pick up the diversion route, improving traffic flow times on the diversion.</p>	<p>£102k which cannot all be sourced from current funds but match funding will be available from NYC capital funds if £40k can be obtained from this fund.</p>	
<p>Osmotherley Toilets</p>	<p>Osmotherley toilets are in need of repair and funds originally allocated to the parish council to cover such works have been used up on previous repairs and ongoing running costs.</p> <p>Improvements to the facilities have been costed at £40k to generally improve the toilets and reduce ongoing electricity and water costs.</p>	<p>£16k</p>	<p>No</p>

	<p>In addition to this, the disabled toilets also need improvements which have currently been descope due to cost but this is an additional £10k.</p> <p>Parish council reserves can cover some of the cost but to complete the work £16k is required</p> <p>The parish council would oversee the work which is due to start in Sept 24</p> <p>The work could fall into the eligibility criteria: “Targeted contributions that provide added value to small scale regeneration activity such as public art, town centre improvement or small-scale enhancement to a local park or footpath/cycle network”, and supports regeneration and tourism for the village.</p> <p>However, there is an issue giving the money to the parish council to undertake the work as the scope states that it cannot be used for delegated grant schemes to external parties.</p>		
Multi-use track from Garsdale to Hawes	<p>This is a Yorkshire Dales National Park project to create a multi-use track along an old Railway track bed. The project is in its early stages and not enough information is available to know how the council would be involved so that this isn't a delegated grant scheme.</p> <p>There may be an option to support the project in the future, via other funding / support mechanisms.</p>	Est £10k	No
	Total	£123k	
	Total Recommended by the Steering Group	£97k	

4.3 Members should note that at this stage the above figures are **indicative only** and so specific allocations will vary, subject to securing detailed quotes/fee proposals. Final decisions will be made by the Director of Community Development in consultation with the Executive Member for Open to Business.

5.0 RICHMOND AND NORTHALLERTON AC BUDGET INFORMATION

5.1 The financial position of the budget allocated to the Richmond and Northallerton AC through the Economic, Regeneration, Tourism and Transport Project Development Fund is as detailed in the table below:

Item	Value
Budget Available (2023/24)	£50,000

Budget Available (2024/25)	£50,000
Value of projects approved to date	£0
Balance of budget <i>currently</i> available	£100,000

5.2 As the total of the projects recommended by the steering committee shown in the table under 4.2 is within the £100k, it is proposed to proceed with the three projects and updated costings will be provided as the projects progress.

6.0 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN AND RESPONSES

6.1 The project proposals contained in this report have been put forward following consultation with Officers from various services across the Council. The steering group for the Richmond and Northallerton Committee have been consulted and the proposals have been discussed at the Richmond and Northallerton Steering group Committee Review on 30 August 2024.

7.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 Members may choose not to progress any of the schemes outlined in this report, however, given that there is such limited time available to secure AC endorsement for any alternative proposals, finalise approvals, procure and undertake the project work, this is highly likely to result in the remaining Development Fund allocation being 'lost' to the area.

8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Whilst there are no direct legal implications from the recommendations of this report, the following legal implications should be noted if the projects are progressed:

9.2 The proposal relating to the provision of parking spaces will be subject to the statutory process for Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) which includes a public consultation. The outcome of that consultation has to be considered before any decision is taken regarding the TRO. The Council also has to have regard to its duty under Section 122 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 before making any TRO.

9.3 With regard to the project regarding public transport provision the appointment of any consultants will need to be undertaken in line with Council's Constitution and the Contract and Procedure Rules.

9.4 In respect of proposed signage this will be compliant with the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no direct equality implications from the recommendations in this report.

11.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no direct climate implications from the recommendations in this report.

12.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 To progress the allocation of the Economic, Regeneration, Tourism and Transport Project Development Fund available to this Committee and to maximise benefit to the Richmond and Northallerton area.

13.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1

It is recommended that the Committee:

- approves the process as outlined in 3.2 – 3.3 (above);
- considers the proposals set out in 4.2 (above)
- agrees the proposals which have been put forward to the Committee and which contribute to the objectives of the fund which will then be put forward for a full scoping review and endorsement in October

Nic Harne
Corporate Director – Community Development
County Hall
Northallerton
16 September 2024

Report Author – Louisa Carolan, Principal Regeneration Officer: Richmond and Northallerton Area
Presenter of Report – Louisa Carolan, Principal Regeneration Officer: Richmond and Northallerton Area

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