

North Yorkshire Council

Corporate Director of Environment

19 February 2025

Bikeability Grant Award 2025-2026

Report of the Assistant Director – Highways and Infrastructure

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 A request for the Corporate Director of Environment to inform the Chief Finance Officer, delegated to the Assistant Director of Resources (Environment) and authorise the acceptance of the recurring direct award Bikeability Grant of up to £229,350 for the financial year 2025-26 and note that the actual amount of grant available will be dependent on the number of places delivered.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Authorisation to accept a recurring, direct award grant offer from Active Travel England (ATE) for delivery of the Bikeability child cycle training programme.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On 23 December 2024, the Environment Executive committee were informed that the Bikeability tender publication exercise in October did not result in any bids. It was agreed that officers would continue to pursue a procurement solution.
- 3.2 It is unlikely that an outsourced contract could be implemented before September 2025. Therefore, it was agreed that delivery would continue until an outsourced contract is implemented. It was also agreed that delivery would continue to be at a cost to the Council.
- 3.3 On 15 January 2025 the Council received the 2025-26 grant award offer from Active Travel England.

4.0 2025-26 GRANT AWARD OFFER

- 4.1 Active Travel England has offered £229,350 to deliver 4170 Level 1/2 Bikeability places. A number of additional grant options were offered in the grant offer letter. Delivery of these additional options is not feasible and will not be taken up. The grant per head has been increased from £50 to £55.
- 4.2 The amount of grant available is based on the number of places delivered and therefore if less places are delivered, the amount of grant available reduces.
- 4.3 Total delivery costs for the full year if all places are delivered, would be £358,995 and is funded as follows: -

Delivery Costs 4170 Places	£358,995
Funded by	
Grant	£229,350
Cost Recovery from Schools	£ 60,516 (based on 3362 paid places)

Additional Council Contribution	£ 69,129
Total	£358,995

4.4 The Council contribution of £69,129 would be funded from the Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) Miscellaneous Small Projects budget. This is a theoretical maximum contribution based on the full allocation of places delivered over the 25/26 financial year.

4.5 At present, it is anticipated that a new outsourced contract would commence in September 2025. In that scenario, it is anticipated that delivery costs would be as follows:-

Delivery Costs 3000 Places	£213,414
Funded by	
Grant	£165,000
Cost Recovery from Schools	£ 45,000 (based on 2460 paid places)
Additional Council Contribution	£ 3,414
Total	£213,414

4.6 The Council contribution of £3,414 would be funded from the Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) Miscellaneous Small Projects budget.

5.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 Officers continue to investigate potential alternative sources of funding.

5.2 If the scheme remained in house, schools could be charged the full cost of the shortfall currently supported by CPE contributions. The fee per pupil would need to increase from £18 per head to £21.87. Feedback from schools indicates that this increase would not be affordable and is not recommended.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Council Contribution will be met from Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) Miscellaneous Small Projects budget as set out in this report. The maximum council contribution, if all 4,170 places are delivered is £69,129 in the 25/26 financial year.

6.2 The number of places estimated to be delivered is 3,000, based on the previous years. In this case, the Council contribution would be £3,414. The exact amount of Council contribution will depend on the number of places delivered in year. The exact number of places cannot be determined as many factors affect this, for example: less schools may book because less children want to participate this year; there is illness in a school impacting on the number of places attended and therefore claimable; the weather also has an impact on delivery.

6.3 Historically over the last 10 years between 60% and 75% of the grant places offered have been delivered. An estimate of 3000 places is an estimated number based on previous years delivery.

6.4 The Grant of £55 per participant is claimed quarterly in arrears and only claimed for actual places attended and therefore only the grant available for the number of places delivered will actually be drawn down. This is likely to be less than the maximum set out above. Less than the maximum council contribution would also therefore be required.

6.5 Active Travel England via the Bikeability Trust are aware that the Council may not deliver the full quota of grant places.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Agreement for Funding to Deliver Bikeability Cycle Training April 2025-March 2026 has been reviewed by Legal Services.

8.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Continuation of the Bikeability child cycle training scheme across North Yorkshire.

9.0 RECOMMENDATION

9.1 That the Corporate Director of Environment inform the Chief Finance Officer, delegated to the Assistant Director of Resources (Environment) and authorise the acceptance of the recurring direct award Bikeability Grant of £229,350 for the financial year 2025-26.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Grant Award Offer Letter

Fiona Ancell
Team Leader Road Safety & Active Travel
County Hall
Northallerton
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Report Author and Presenter – Fiona Ancell, Team Leader Road Safety and Active Travel