

# North Yorkshire Council

## Resources

10 March 2025

### Acceptance of Consolidated Active Travel Fund

#### Report of the Assistant Director – Highways and Infrastructure

#### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request approval from the Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the Executive Member for Highways and Transportation and the Executive Member for Finance to accept £1.256m from Active Travel England's Consolidated Active Travel Fund

#### 2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Consolidated Active Travel Fund (CATF) represents the seventh tranche of active travel funding for Local Authorities since 2020.
- 2.2 North Yorkshire Council (NYC) were awarded £133,000 from Emergency Active Travel Fund (EATF) and £1,011,750 from Active Travel Fund tranche 2 (ATF2). Bids to Active Travel Fund 3 (ATF3) and Active Travel Fund tranche 4 (ATF4) were both unsuccessful. NYC were ineligible for Active Travel Fund tranche 4 extension (ATF4e). ATF 5, publicly announced in February 2025, was an allocation of funds rather than a bidding process and CATF follows the same principle.

#### 3.0 CONSOLIDATED ACTIVE TRAVEL FUND

- 3.1 Active Travel England (ATE) will provide both capital and revenue funding through the CATF totalling £128m of capital and £40.5m of revenue to authorities. Revenue funding will be paid first to provide funding certainty and enable planning work to commence.
- 3.2 A grant award letter was received on 28 February which set out that North Yorkshire Council's (NYC) allocation is £1,256,601 and will be paid as a grant under Section 31 of the Local Government Act. Revenue payments will be made in March 2025 and capital payments in the new financial year.
- 3.3 The CATF combines activities previously funded by ATF and Capability Fund (CF) and covers delivery of high-quality walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure, capability building measures and behaviour change activities.
- 3.4 The focus of CATF funding is:
1. New construction schemes with robust delivery plans
  2. Change control funding to unblock existing ATF schemes to secure timely delivery and improve scheme quality
  3. Essential maintenance funding to address safety or accessibility concerns on existing active travel routes
  4. Early development of future active travel schemes (including to support the development of housing), creating a pipeline of schemes to be funded by future government spending rounds or other local funding
  5. Development and delivery of high-quality capability building and behaviour change activities, enabling authorities to plan for and activate existing infrastructure and new capital schemes.

3.4.1 Authorities are free to decide on an appropriate mix of activities in line with local need.

3.5 The NYC allocation is £1,256,601 in total, of which, £383,602 is revenue and £872,999 is capital.

3.6 The key dates for the CATF are:

- The revenue element of the CATF must be accepted by 19 March 2025
- CATF guidance will be issued in spring 2025 alongside opening of the submission portal
- Capital schemes and revenue activities submitted to ATE for assurance by end of September 2025.
- Revenue funding should be committed within 12 months (by end of March 2026) and delivered within 18 months (by end of September 2026).
- Capital funded schemes should be committed within 12 months (by end of March 2026) and delivered as soon as reasonably possible thereafter. All construction schemes should be completed within two years (by end of March 2027).

#### **4.0 CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

4.1 The 'North Yorkshire Council 'Council Plan 2024-2028' sets out the priorities for the next four years. One such priority is to 'promote and encourage active travel including walking, wheeling and cycling'. The schemes within this bid align with this priority and are expected to increase walking, wheeling and cycling.

4.2 The York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority's Strategic Transport Framework commits to ensuring that active travel is a core part of an integrated transport network. In the long term this means a comprehensive network of lit, well-maintained walking, wheeling and cycle routes across the Combined Authority. The schemes within this bid will improve walking, wheeling and cycling routes across North Yorkshire.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The NYC allocation is £1,256,601 in total, of which, £383,602 is revenue and £872,999 is capital. No match funding from the Council is required as a result of accepting the grant. A report will be prepared to agree the programme and set out the investment needed following receipt of the CATF guidance. The programme of projects to be progressed will be within the funding amount and will include an appropriate level of optimism bias. The programme can be reviewed to ensure spend remains within the funding envelope.

#### **6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The Terms and Conditions and the Memorandum of Understanding for the revenue element of the CATF grant has been reviewed and found to be acceptable to NYC. On receipt of the equivalent documents for the capital element of the CATF legal checks will be carried out. There are no legal implications arising from the acceptance of the Grant nor its expenditure pursuant to the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules.

#### **7.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 Consideration has been given to the potential for any equality impacts arising from the recommendations. It is the view of officers that at this stage the recommendations do not have an adverse impact on any of the protected characteristics identified in the Equalities Act 2010.

#### **8.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no climate change issues arising from this report.

## 9.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 The acceptance of CATF will ensure that work on active travel development and delivery can continue.

### 10.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

10.1 It is recommended that the Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the Executive Member for Highways and Transportation and the Executive Member for finance:

- i) accept £1.256m from Active Travel England's Consolidated Active Travel Fund

#### **Appendices:**

None

#### **Backing Documents:**

None

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10 March 2025

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