

**Report to:** Lead Member for Transport & Environment

**Date of meeting:** 17 August 2020

**By:** Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

**Title:** Emergency Active Travel Fund

**Purpose:** To seek approval to implement the agreed programme of schemes identified in the East Sussex Active Travel for Recovery & Growth programme – Phase 1 arising from tranche 1 of the Government’s Emergency Active Travel Fund

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Lead Member is recommended to

- 1) approve the implementation of the East Sussex Active Travel for Recovery & Growth programme – Phase 1 schemes as set out in Appendix 1 (subject to any amendment in accordance with recommendation 2 below) arising from tranche 1 of the Government’s Emergency Active Travel Fund; and
  - 2) delegate authority to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport in consultation with the Lead Member for Transport and Environment to finalise the list of Emergency Active Travel Fund schemes for implementation and to take any actions necessary to give effect to recommendation 1.
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## **1 Background Information**

1.1 On 9 May 2020, the Secretary of State for Transport announced a £250m Emergency Active Travel Fund for local authorities to restart local transport as part of the Government’s Covid-19 recovery roadmap. The funding forms part of a wider £2bn announced in February 2020 to support the government’s wider aim to get more people cycling and walking and encouraging local authorities to develop Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP).

1.2 The £250m has been indicatively allocated to local authorities in two tranches. On 5 June 2020 East Sussex County Council (“the County Council”) submitted its Active Travel for Recovery & Growth programme – Phase 1 relating to the tranche 1 allocation for approval. On 25 June 2020 the County Council received confirmation that it would receive £535k in tranche 1 for the delivery of targeted temporary transport measures. It was stipulated that spend must commence within four weeks of receipt of the funding and be completed within 8 weeks of receipt. Therefore any measures must be able to be delivered quickly and easily.

1.3 Government published the guidance for the second tranche of funding on 10 July 2020 and set out the types of measures which can and cannot be funded with an emphasis on schemes which enable the reallocation of road space for pedestrians and cyclists and that can be delivered by March 2021. The County Council has been indicatively allocated a second tranche of funding of £1.916m which is available as 80% capital and 20% revenue. We are currently developing our tranche 2 programme which will be reflective of the fund’s guidance and the content of our LCWIP. This was submitted by the deadline of 7 August 2020.

## **2 Supporting Information**

2.1 Following the Government’s funding announcement in May a programme of temporary transport measures for the county for tranche 1 was developed in accordance with the guidance. In doing so, we have collaborated with Borough and District Councils as well as engaged with walking and cycling groups across the county for their thoughts and suggestions. In finalising the

programme, these potential schemes were assessed on their likely impact and benefits as well as their deliverability, safety and likely local acceptability.

2.2 The submitted programme broadly comprised two elements, namely:

1. Countywide measures

To ensure consistency across the county, an integrated package of social distancing signage in town centres and high streets, at key bus stops to reduce conflict between people queuing for buses and accessing adjacent shops, and temporary cycle parking. The signage measures are already in place, with the cycle parking to be provided as soon as possible.

2. Site specific schemes to encourage walking and cycling

*Eastbourne*

- Terminus Road between Trinity Trees and Grand Parade – Road closure
- Bolton Road to Langney Road, Eastbourne – Road closure
- Seafront cycle route between Fishermans Green and Wish Tower
- Cycle route on Princes Road between Royal Parade and Langney Roundabout

*Hastings*

- A259 The Stade to Pelham Place car park– Localised footway widening to enable people to social distance
- Warrior Square (west of junction Norman Road) - Footway widening to enable people to social distance

*Bexhill*

- Buckhurst Place – Footway widening under the bridge at junction of Sackville Road/Buckhurst Place
- Devonshire Road – Footway widening to enable people to social distance
- Western Road – Footway widening to enable people to social distance

*Rye*

- High Street – Footway widening to enable people to social distance

*Newhaven*

- A259 Peacehaven – Newhaven – temporary cycle route
- A259 Bishopstone to Marine Drive Seaford –widening of shared footway to enable greater space and safety for both pedestrians and cyclists

*Lewes*

- High Street/School Hill – Footway widening to enable people to social distance.

*Hailsham*

- Hailsham High Street – Limit vehicle access to cyclists, taxis and buses and footway widening

*Cuckoo Trail*

- Provision of additional signing from residential areas in Heathfield to Eastbourne to signpost users to the existing shared Cuckoo Trail route.

2.3 The programme was developed to ensure that it integrates with the ambitions in the draft LCWIP, makes the best use of the funding available and builds on recent and planned investment made in walking and cycling infrastructure through the capital programme of local transport improvements. Therefore, tranche 1 includes a small number of schemes, which have been prioritised for inclusion in the draft LCWIP, which we will bring forward as temporary schemes.

2.4 Despite a clear desire from Government for these types of schemes to be delivered quickly, we have sought to undertake local consultation on all the site specific schemes with those immediately affected by the proposals. Given the need to identify and develop these schemes at

pace, some of the proposals drew significant negative feedback at the local consultation stage. The proposed list of schemes that are recommended to proceed or not proceed is set out in Appendix 1 of the report. As part of this process a panel of officers from within directorate considered summaries of the representations made and the recommendations within this report are supported by the views of the panel.

2.5 In addition, having due regard to the Equality Act 2010 has been essential in the development of the programme, and the further assessment of this has been integrated into the design and delivery of the individual schemes.

### **3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations**

3.1 The Government's Emergency Active Travel Fund is intended to provide an opportunity for local authorities to help restart local transport in the county and support the economic recovery by promoting greater levels of walking and cycling and promoting safe social distancing in our high streets and town centres as the Covid-19 restrictions continue to ease.

3.2 The East Sussex Active Travel for Recovery & Growth – Phase 1 programme, as summarised in paragraph 2.2 has been developed to utilise the £535k allocated in tranche 1 for East Sussex from the Government's Emergency Active Travel Fund.

3.3 The site specific schemes have been subject to limited consultation. The Lead Member for Transport & Environment is recommended to approve the delivery of the programme of schemes, set out in appendix 1, and to delegate authority to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport in consultation with the Lead Member for Transport and Environment to finalise the list of Emergency Active Travel Fund schemes as set out in Appendix 1 for implementation and to take any actions necessary to implement the schemes.

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#### **LOCAL MEMBERS**

All

#### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

East Sussex Active Travel Recovery and Growth – Phase 1 submission, June 2020