

## ITEM: SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL TRANSITION FUND BID

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**1. Purpose of the Report**

**1.1 This report provides an update on the proposed cycle route along the A4 between Maidenhead Bridge and the town centre.**

**2. Supporting Information****Background**

- 2.1 In his 2015 Autumn Statement, the Chancellor announced £580 million (£80 million revenue and £500 million capital) for sustainable travel initiatives.
- 2.2 The Access Fund will comprise £60 million of revenue funding over a three year period from 2017/18 to 2019/20. This will build on the success of the previous Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF).
- 2.3 To cover the gap between LSTF and the Access Fund, the Department for Transport made £20 million of revenue funding available for packages of sustainable transport initiatives that could be delivered in 2016/17.
- 2.4 The Royal Borough submitted a bid to the Sustainable Travel Transition Year Fund entitled 'Travel Wise Windsor and Maidenhead'. This was a coordinated package of measures designed to support the economic development and ongoing regeneration of Maidenhead and Windsor town centres. The bid's objectives were:
- To reduce the number of people travelling by car and increase in the proportion of trips made by walking, cycling and public transport; with the consequent benefits of easing traffic congestion on the local road networks.
  - To improve accessibility to of the town centres and surrounding areas for employment and education.
  - To promote and secure carbon reduction.
  - To improve the health and quality of life of residents.
  - To improve the attractiveness of Maidenhead and Windsor as locations for private sector investment, business and tourism; therefore, supporting local development and employment growth.
  - To maximise the impact of the Local Growth Fund investment in local transport infrastructure.
- 2.5 The bid incorporated range of complementary activities aimed at local people, business and schools including:
- Station travel plans for Maidenhead and Windsor and Eton Central.
  - Travel training for children and adults who have difficulties in travelling independently.
  - A Workplace Cycle Challenge to challenge teams and workplaces to compete to see who can get the most people cycling within a defined period.

- A programme of cycling skills / maintenance classes, improvements to cycling information and led bike rides.
- School travel planning activities, including Bike It, Walk to School Week events and development of formal kiss and drop schemes to tackle congestion outside schools.

- 2.6 Unfortunately, the bid was not successful, because the Department for Transport (DfT) considered that it did not fit strongly enough with the fund's objectives. They advised that while the bid had a clear strategic case, it would have benefitted from making a more measurable link between the planned interventions and carbon reduction. Also they advised that the value for money case needed to be stronger.
- 2.7 The guidance for the Access Fund is anticipated to be released later in the summer at which point the Council will consider whether or not it wishes to bid for funding, and if there is scope for a joint bid with neighbouring authorities. In the meantime, officers will review the successful Sustainable Travel Transition Year Fund bids to understand why they were prioritised for funding ahead of our own bid.
- 2.8 It should be noted that the LSTF programme allowed authorities to bid for a combination of capital and revenue funding. Research carried out on the effectiveness of LSTF programme found that the optimum revenue: capital split was around 50:50. The Government is allocating £500 million of capital funding through the Local Enterprise Partnerships. The Royal Borough has submitted a bid for the 'Maidenhead Missing Links' project, which seeks to deliver improvements to local walking and cycling routes and public realm to ensure that the redeveloped opportunity sites are integrated with the wider town centre and surrounding areas. This will be submitted via the LEP at the end of July. If successful, this would provide a useful hook for any bid for revenue funding through the Access Fund.

### **3. Recommendation**

- 3.1 It is recommended that members of the Cycle Forum note the outcome of the bid and identify possible measures for inclusion in a possible future bid to the Access Fund.**