

Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Date	23 rd March 2022
Report title	Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 Delivery Update
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Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Review the delivery progress of the Active Travel Fund Tranche 2.

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To give a delivery update on the Active Travel Fund Tranche 2.
- 1.2. To advise on the programme completion arrangements and funding for future Active Travel projects.

2. Background

2.1 In November 2020, the allocations for Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 were announced with WMCA awarded £13.1m, to deliver a programme of schemes including;

- Pop up and permanent cycle routes
- Cycle Parking
- Enhancement of walking spaces
- Making permanent the schemes from Emergency Active Travel Fund Tranche 1
- Low traffic neighbourhoods/Places for People
- Traffic Cells
- School Streets
- A supporting measures package to activate the above

Tranche 2 schemes are delivering the long-term vision for the West Midlands – one that not only supports our health and economic recovery, but provides a truly transformational active travel network that enables long lasting behaviour change and enhances the quality of life and living in the region. See Appendix 1 for full scheme list.

- 2.2 The Department for Transport laid out firm direction for the delivery of the Active Travel schemes concerning engagement and consultation, LTN 1/20 compliance, monitoring and evaluation and a view for all schemes to be concluded by 31st March 2022
- 2.3 WMCA manages the Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 grant with allocations paid to each Local Authority upon delivery of schemes through a grant agreement milestone-based programme management approach. There are bi-monthly progress reports to the Department for Transport capturing delivery updates and changes to the programme. This will continue until completion.
- 2.4 Each Active Travel Funded infrastructure scheme has been uploaded to the West Midlands Active Travel online engagement platform (Commonplace) for community visibility and comment, and where possible, in-person consultation has taken place to ensure public awareness or co-design of the schemes. Online engagement formed part of wider published consultation plans that engaged with key stakeholders such as local residents, businesses, emergency services, bus operators, Royal Mail, MPs and Ward councillors, outlined by DfT Guidance.
- 2.5 Each month Local Authorities provide delivery updates containing design and consultation progress, project plans, risks, scope changes and financial updates as well as uploading delivery evidence to highlight joint promotional opportunities.

- 2.6 A Roll and Stroll communications campaign has run throughout ATF2. This has included support for each of the supporting measures, delivering promotional materials and assets and promoting them to appropriate audiences through a range of channels. We are now moving into the infrastructure support element of the campaign, which will see a range of activity undertaken to launch and activate each scheme. From a communications side, this will include a range of tactics such as media events, out of home promotion on and around the infrastructure, case studies and targeted social media promotion. Engagement activity will include seeking out and working closely with local community groups and organisations on and surrounding the schemes, working with our partners and the supporting measures delivery teams to provide activities that will enable the public to use the routes. We will continue our partner approach, working closely with local authority partners to deliver borough-specific activity that fits into the region-wide strategy.
- 2.7 WMCA manages the package of supporting measures with partners and suppliers. The projects are designed to promote and broaden participation in cycling and walking equitably and safely. All projects are on track to deliver to target and to budget with completion by 31st March 2022.
- 2.8 The timescales for delivery the Active Travel Fund 2 infrastructure schemes have proven challenging; consultation and LTN 1/20 design requirements, set against the backdrop of the Covid 19 pandemic, staff/contractor availability as well as rising costs have been difficult to manage, not only in the West Midlands but nationally, and as a result many schemes have required a delivery extension, now granted by the Department for Transport to 31st March 2023.
- 2.9 An application for a further Active Travel Fund Tranche 3 is pending a Department for Transport announcement.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 In November 2020, the allocations for Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 was announced with WMCA awarded £13.1m (80% Capital, 20% Revenue) to deliver a programme of schemes including new cycling infrastructure, making some the current pop up cycle lanes more permanent, Places for People and a supporting measures package.
- 3.2 The allocation received was only 95% of the original £13.78m which was bid for in Tranche 2. Following discussions and key priorities, it was agreed at STOG Active Travel Group (04-DEC-20) to approve Option 3 such that the 5% reduction would be met by WMCA therefore will not affect the Local Authority planned allocations to deliver respective priorities.
- 3.3 The 5% reduction would be met by WMCA through uncommitted TCF funding (£269K) and release of ATF scheme contingency (£420k) to cover the remaining balance.
- 3.4 The table below summarises the agreed allocations per Local Authority and the corresponding actual spend to February 2022. As such, only £4.7m out of the £13.1m funding package has been claimed to date.

	TOTAL ATF2 - CAPITAL and REVENUE					
	Spend to Feb22		Budget		Variance	
Birmingham	£	1,343,205	£	4,477,349	£	3,134,144
Coventry	£	431,645	£	1,438,816	£	1,007,171
Dudley	£	234,000	£	780,000	£	546,000
Solihull	£	252,342	£	841,141	£	588,799
Sandwell	£	535,181	£	1,783,935	£	1,248,755
Walsall	£	333,488	£	1,111,626	£	778,138
Wolverhampton	£	308,340	£	1,027,801	£	719,461
LA Total	£	3,438,200	£	11,460,668	£	8,022,468
WMCA	£	1,253,887	£	1,636,982	£	383,095
WMCA Total	£	1,253,887	£	1,636,982	£	383,095
TOTAL ATF2 Grant	£	4,692,087	£	13,097,650	£	8,405,563

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 Legal will support where necessary in order to capture any variations to existing funding agreements with local authority partners, in line with the revised delivery timeframes granted by the Department for Transport; as otherwise set out in paragraph 2.8.

5. Equalities Implications

- 5.1 The Active Travel Fund infrastructure and supporting measures package does not result in any negative disproportionate impact for any of the protected characteristics. It is envisaged that the programme, as originally set out to do, will have a positive impact on all protected characteristics. Equality monitoring of participation on all related activity shows that the participants are representative of the West Midlands Metropolitan area population – in terms of gender, age, disability and ethnicity.
- 5.2 There have been opportunities to engage with the Out on Your Loan, Ride Ahead Together and Cycle Parking for Organisations projects that have been specifically designed to reach communities that are participation in Active Travel.

6. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 6.1 Encouraging cycling and walking in the West Midlands LCWIP supports inclusive growth by supporting the following themes;
- Affordable, safe, and connected places
 - Sustainability
 - Health and Wellbeing
 - Equality
 - Economy
- 6.2 Active travel encourages people to combine physical activity as part of their journey which has a positive impact on health and wellbeing as well as air quality.

6.3 As accessible and low-cost modes of transport, cycling and walking can help people access local high streets, jobs and education.

7. Geographical Area of Report's Implications

7.1 Transport for West Midlands works with Constituent Local Authorities to manage cross border relationships and align cycling and walking schemes to ensure consistency in access and quality. Approximately 57% of all journeys (all modes) in the West Midlands cross an administrative boundary (of one of the seven constituent local authorities).

7.2 The Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 schemes were selected from the published West Midlands Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan in conjunction with a prioritisation exercise by Constituent Local Authorities.

8. Other Implications

None

9. Schedule of Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 Infrastructure Schemes

Appendix 2 – Active Travel Fund Supporting Measures Highlight Report

Appendix 1

Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 Infrastructure Schemes

Local Authority	Project code	Project name	Delivery date*	Status
Birmingham	BIR201A	Moseley Local Centre – Transport Space Reallocation Location	July 22	Design complete
	BIR201D	Cycle lanes – City Centre to Yardley (A45 corridor)	July 22	Design underway
	BIR201G	Cycle lanes – City Centre to Smethwick (A457 corridor)	July 22	Design underway
	BIR201H	Cycle lanes – Bradford Street (City Centre Access)	October 22	Design underway
	BIR202A	Lozells Low Traffic Neighbourhood	March 22	Design complete
	BIR202B	Kings Heath & Moseley Low Traffic Neighbourhood	October 22	Consultation complete
	BIR202G	School Streets Measures	March 22	Complete
	BIR202H	Places for People: Wylde Green	August 22	Design complete
	BIR203A	Further development of Tranche 1, Scheme 6 City Centre Traffic Cells Initiative	July 22	Construction underway
	BIR203B	Development of other elements of City Centre Traffic Cells Initiative		Design underway
	BIR204A	Pop-up cycle lanes A38 spur to Moseley	July 22	Design underway
	BIR204B	Local Centres: Sutton Coldfield	March 22	Design complete
	BIR204C	City-wide cycle parking in public spaces	March 22	Design complete
	BIR204D	Big Birmingham Bikes	March 22	Construction underway
	Coventry	COV201	University Hospital	September 22
COV202		Foleshill/Radford to City Centre	October 22	Consultation underway
COV203		Campus Connections University of Warwick	October 22	Consultation complete
Dudley	DUD202	A4123 Corridor (Dudley/Sandwell section)	August 22	Design complete
	DUD204	A456 Corridor (Halesowen) Cycling Measures - Phase 1	March 22	Construction underway
Sandwell	SAN201	Blackheath Town Centre Active Travel Interventions	August 22	Design complete
	SAN202	Wednesbury Town Centre Active Travel Interventions	August 22	Design complete
	SAN203	Bearwood High Street Active Travel Interventions	August 22	Design complete
	SAN204	A4123 Corridor (Dudley/Sandwell section)	August 22	Construction underway
Solihull	SOL201	Blossomfield Road Pop up Cycleway	August 22	Construction underway
	SOL202	Knowle to Solihull Town Centre Pop up Cycleway	June 22	Construction underway
	SOL203	Borough Wide Cycle Parking	April 22	Construction underway

	SOL204	Meriden to Millisons Wood Cycleway	March 22	Construction underway
Walsall	WAL201	Connecting Bentley Phase II	March 22	Construction underway
	WAL203	School Streets Phase II	March 21 (Complete)	Construction completed
Wolverhampton	WOL203	St Peters Ring Road Crossing & Waterloo Road	June 22	Construction underway
	WOL204	Wednesfield Road	June 22	Construction underway

*Current status as reported by Local Authority, some schemes subject to impending change request

Appendix 2 Active Travel Fund Supporting Measures Highlight Report

Project Code	Work stream	Completed projects
WMSM202A	Love to Ride	149 companies registered for Love to Ride, with 616 participants registered, and 26 new cyclists.
WMSM202B	Modeshift	In total there are 44 sign-ups and 25 people trained up on Modeshift, and 24 Modeshift accreditations. This work stream is now complete.
WMSM204A	Ride Ahead Together	<p>Cycle Confidence sessions underway. Midland Mencap have been running Complex Needs sessions in conjunction with Sense. The Sense staff can engage with more people on the sessions and are doing sensory plans and training plans for people on the course so they can get more out of it.</p> <p>The project has been shortlisted in the top three for the Sport and Recreation Alliance Community awards, Community Club of the Year.</p>
WMSM204B	Social Prescribing (Birmingham)	<p>In Birmingham there were 44 participants recruited, bringing the total to 528.</p> <p>There has been a focus on walking opportunities and of getting more of a demographic breakdown of participants. 85% of people attending walks live in quintiles 1 and 2. There have been two new walking route opportunities that have arisen close to Bourn Brook Walkway/Woodgate Valley Green walk.</p> <p>There has been some media coverage about the Social Prescribing project on BBC and ITV Central.</p>
WMSM204C	Social Prescribing (Black Country)	<p>In the Black Country there are 8 GP surgeries engaged. Total number of participants is 82.</p> <p>The team have invested in a text messaging service which involves sending a message to participants to encourage them to be active; followed by another message at a later date to ask participants to fill out an evaluation form.</p>
WMSM205A	British Cycling	24 Community Activation rides were completed in the latest period, with 142 participants.
WMSM205B	Cycling UK	Cycling UK delivering Dr Bike sessions. There are now 40 Community Cycling Clubs .
WMSM205C	Living Streets	Businesses engaged as part of the Walking Works programme and schools/nurseries were engaged with the Little Feet programme .
WMSM206	Travel Planning Capacity & Activation Grants	The final total for travel planning activity is 165 sites engaged and 103 sites are actively engaged (exceeding the target of 100 businesses). Business grants processed.
WMSM207	Road Safety Package	The West Midlands Fire Service Team are delivering the Every Choice Counts/Transition workshops in educational establishments and running the Cycle Operations. 4 Cycle Operations took place in the latest period, engaging with 36

		<p>people. We have delivered 20 Cycle Operations to date against a target of 19. 14 Every Choice Counts/Transition sessions were delivered at 8 establishments, educating 751 students. Establishments included Aston University, WMG Engineering Academy and Shireland Collegiate Academy. Total sessions delivered to date: 91 - on schedule to reach target of 105 sessions delivered by end of March.</p> <p>There have been 20 Love Your Bike sessions held to date. There are plans to continue with these, with another 13 sessions planned during March 2022. There is currently a promotional campaign underway to advertise these.</p>
WMSM208	Out on your Loan	There have been 31 applicants for Out on Your Loan since the start of the project, with 16 bike loans provided over the course of the delivery period. Conversations with Birmingham Settlement at Edgbaston Reservoir have progressed and they plan to put in an order for a number of cycles by the end of March to be based at this site.
WMSM209	See.Sense Smart Cycling Project	200 people have purchased See.Sense lights with a total of 117 active riders. The data generated by See.Sense has the ability to help others with planning, for example Coventry City Council planning their LCWIP.
WMSM210A	Bolstering Cycling and Walking Activity in West Midlands Communities (Birmingham, Solihull, and Coventry)	<p>There were 84 people engaged in February and 139 people were referred to ATF Supporting Measures activities. 3 people have also been referred to local provision.</p> <p>In Birmingham, Sustrans identified that community groups require additional support to increase cycling and walking. Schemes to get bikes to local people, particularly in deprived areas, are critical. Working alongside Cycling UK across a range of locations to support community cycling will also help in areas where BAME and vulnerable groups may feel that cycling is inaccessible.</p>
WMSM210B	Bolstering Cycling and Walking Activity in West Midlands Communities (Black Country)	<p>There were 58 people engaged and 52 people were referred to ATF Supporting Measures. 5 people were also referred to local provision.</p> <p>There have been online surveys for residents living in less engaged focus areas (Dudley/Kates Hill, Wolverhampton City Centre). Project Officers are working with selected participants to provide content for Case Studies.</p>

WMSM212	Cycle parking for Organisations	<p>There were 20 cycle parking applications bringing the total number of applications to 123. Cycle parking has now been installed at 26 locations, equating to 55 stands and 122 cycle parking spaces provided.</p> <p>A mailshot has recently gone out to a large number of schools which should generate additional interest, and there are leads to follow up with The Active Wellbeing Society, Aston University and Southside BID. In addition to this TfWM is sending out an e-newsletter to Job Centre's near to the ATF infrastructure to promote the free Cycle Parking offer.</p>
WMSM222	Commonplace	<p>There has been a total of 82,234 contributions on the Commonplace platform and 115,879 unique visitors (2583 in January).</p>
BIR204D	Big Birmingham Bikes	<p>There have been 497 applications received for Big Birmingham Bikes, in Small Heath and Nechells wards. The first giveaway of bikes took place on 17th February at Small Heath Leisure Centre.</p>