

Delegated Decision

12 April 2024

Grant Funding Agreement - TCF Durham City Centre Active Mode Connectivity - Tranche 2



Report of Regeneration, Economy and Growth

Mark Jackson, Head of Transport and Contract Services

Electoral divisions affected:

Framwellgate and Newton Hall and Elvet and Gilesgate.

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To approve the formal sealing of grant funding agreement from the North East Combined Authority (NECA) relating to Durham City Centre Active Mode Connectivity. The funding is Transforming Cities Funding Tranche 2. The grant is for design and construction.

Executive summary

- 2 The Department for Transport (DfT) awarded funding to NECA from the second tranche of Transforming Cities Funding, of which £2,500,000 has been allocated towards design and construction work for active mode improvements in Durham City Centre.

Recommendation

- 3 The recommendation is to note and authorise for sealing.

Background

- 4 The Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) is a £2.45 billion capital grant transport fund aimed at driving up productivity through investments in public and sustainable transport infrastructure in some of England's largest city regions.
- 5 The fund that was announced in the 2017 Autumn Budget has two key objectives:
 - (a) improve access to good jobs within English cities; and
 - (b) encourage an increase in journeys made by low-carbon and sustainable modes of transport.
- 6 In November 2019, the North East region submitted a Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) as a bid for Tranche 2 funding, of which it was successfully allocated £198.5 million. Within the bid, various schemes were located within County Durham which to date have been progressed including:
 - (a) walking and cycling improvements elsewhere within Durham City;
 - (b) expansion of Sniperley Park and Ride site; and
 - (c) improvements to Durham Bus Station.
- 7 In 2023, the North East region invited local authorities to submit proposals for unallocated TCF funding for schemes that could be constructed within the timescales of TCF spending requirements by March 2024. Durham County Council's submission of the Durham City Centre Active Mode Connectivity was successful.
- 8 The package is made up of a number of sub schemes at various locations in the city centre:
 - (a) Stockton Road/New Inn/Quarryheads lane;
 - (b) Whinney Hill;
 - (c) Claypath;
 - (d) Walkergate;
 - (e) Framwellgate Reach;
 - (f) Framwellgate Waterside; and
 - (g) Baileys.

- 9 The TCF funding allocated is £2,500,000 for design and construction work. This is to be supported by existing £1.219 million of highways maintenance funding and £0.494 million of S106 funding, with the latter allocated for sustainable transport improvements in the city centre.
- 10 Construction of these schemes are expected to be undertaken during the 2024/25 financial year.

Background papers

- Grant Funding Agreement: Durham City Centre Active Mode
- Connectivity – Transforming Cities Funding - Tranche 2

Other useful documents

- None

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Grant Funding Agreement is in place to allow design and construction costs to be drawn down.

Finance

Capital grant funding of £2,500,000 has been awarded for the scheme design and construction. This is to be supported by existing £1.219 million of highways maintenance funding and £0.494 million of S106 funding, with the latter allocated for sustainable transport improvements in the city centre.

Consultation and Engagement

Consultation, including traffic regulation orders where required, will be undertaken with all related stakeholders.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

The design is to increase the attractiveness of walking and cycling journeys. Designs will be to inclusive design standards.

Climate Change

The introduction of improved active mode measures will enhance the attractiveness supporting modal shift away from private car journeys.

Human Rights

None.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

The risk is the delivery of the scheme as intended and within timescales.

Procurement

The proposals are likely to be delivered internally by the council's highways operations team with a potential requirement for procurement of construction materials and specialist services.