



Meeting: Transport Working Party

Date: 10th July 2014

Wards Affected: All

Report Title: Local Sustainable Transport Fund 2015/16 – Funding Application

Executive Lead Contact Details: Cllr Robert Excell, Safer Communities, Highways, Environment and Sport

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1. **Purpose**

1.1 This report sets out Torbay Council's recent bid submission to Government (Department for Transport (DfT)) for Local Sustainable Transport Funding.

2. **Proposed Decision**

2.1 No decision is required; the report is for information only.

3. **Action Needed**

3.1 No actions are necessary.

4. **Summary**

4.1 The DfT announced a further round of funding under the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) for 2015/16. There was a split between revenue and capital applications as those for revenue had to be submitted to the DfT whilst those for Capital had to be submitted through the Local Enterprise Partnerships, Strategic Economic Plan.

4.2 Torbay Council decided upon a revenue only bid, entitled "SmartTravel Torbay", given the amount of match funding required and further subsequent costs to the Authority in submitting a Capital bid.

4.3 The bid submitted is for an £840,000 package of sustainable transport measures, with £695,000 from the fund. The match funding element is set at a competitive but realistic point in terms of the Council's budget and will be from existing commitments in spending.

4.4 The package of measures six elements which are detailed below but include cross public transport ticketing, cycle training, walking to school programme, travel planning support for those in deprived areas, improvement to walking routes, and bus service enhancements particularly to and from areas of deprivation and health facilities.

4.5 The results of the funding application are expected in July.

Supporting Information

5. Position

- 5.1 In March 2014 the Council submitted a bid to the DfT for Revenue funding under its LSTF programme for 2015/16.
- 5.2 This fund is an extension of the current programme in which Torbay are progressing with the delivery of the Ferry and connecting Bus Service, Cycle Way, and Travel Planning.
- 5.3 The 2015/16 opportunity was targeted at connections to health. It was decided that, with Torbay having the acute deprivation issues, maximising opportunities for sustainable travel and better health in those areas was important.
- 5.4 The details of the package of measures proposed are listed in the section below.
- 5.5 A decision on the bid is expected in July, in line with the Strategic Economic Plan announcement.

6. The Package Elements

6.1 Smartcard, Cross-Public Transport Ticketing

As an integral part of the Government's Door to Door Strategy, we would build up the existing dual operator bus ticket that is available in Torbay, providing a, smart, cross modal ticket for ferry, bus and train services within the Bay and neighbouring cross-boundary towns. Including water transport and rail on the smart ticket will add interest, attractiveness and innovation to the scheme.

6.2 Cycle Training

Cycle training to all ages and abilities will be provided, building upon the experiences and complementing the ongoing Bikeability programme running successfully in all Torquay schools. It will utilise the new closed road circuit at the Torbay Cyclo Park, as well as providing instructor led cycle routes on the expanding network of off-road routes. This element is well aligned with the Prime Ministers Cycling Revolution and the Government's ambition for cycling. It directly achieves one of the fronts of cycle proofing, namely cycle training.

6.3 Walking to Schools Programme

A programme focused on increasing the numbers of pupils walking to and from school and building on that to encourage walking at other times. A coordinator will carry out dedicated work with schools, support events, and carry out route audits. This element of the project will encourage walking and sustainable travel amongst younger people and their parents, tackling the obesity levels in Torbay.

6.4 Travel Planning Support

Journey support can be provided through travel planning techniques and can be personalised to maximise the benefits to improve the door to door journey experience. This was one of four key areas highlighted in the DfT's "Door to Door Strategy" as most likely to encourage people to use sustainable transport. This work will be focused on the areas of deprivation where there are traditionally hard to reach individuals who could have better accessibility but may not be aware of how to reach it.

6.5 Walking Route Improvements

This will include works to existing routes, making the walking environment more appealing and accessible and reducing pedestrian / cycle / vehicle conflicts that lead to safety and health implications. This element will focus on signage, and promotion of the routes, both low cost and relatively, but vital, in making walking more accessible to all.

6.6 Bus Service Enhancement

This initiative would seek to connect over 8,000 residences with a fast, direct, frequent service, to the main district hospital. Improving public transport availability for patients, visitors, and staff at Torbay Hospital will reduce the burden on car parking at the site and reduce the costs incurred from missed appointments.

Background Papers:

Funding Application – online www.torbay.gov.uk/!stf "SmartTravel Torbay"