

## Report to Cabinet



Date of Meeting	31 August 2021
Portfolio	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability
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Public/Private Document	Public

## Active Travel Fund

### Executive Summary

1. In support of the GM 2040 Transport Strategy and Delivery Plans, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority has been successfully awarded funding from the Department for Transport Active Travel Fund to support a GM pipeline of schemes to promote walking and cycling. Rochdale Borough Councils Highway's Service has proposed a package of works which has been supported by Transport for Greater Manchester for allocation of this funding to be spent by the end of March 2022.

The external funding grant is a total of £915,000

If this external funding grant is approved by cabinet, the expenditure will be used to deliver projects as part of the Active Travel Fund.

The aim of Active Travel Fund is to try and embed walking and cycling as part of long-term commuting habits to secure the associated health, air quality and congestion benefits. (In the short-term this may also help avoid overcrowding on public transport as the economy restarts).

Officers from the highways service are undertaking consultation exercises with associated Elected Members, as scheme proposals develop there is funding included within the grant to complete public consultation where required with all key stakeholders.

Further bids for subsequent rounds of the Active Travel Fund are being prepared to support Rochdale projects. Discussions are also taking place with Government to secure a longer term GM transport settlement to support the delivery of active travel projects.

## Recommendation

2. This report seeks confirmation from Cabinet that Rochdale Borough Council is able to receive external funding grant at a total of £915,000

<b>Reason for Recommendation</b>
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3. Rochdale Borough Councils Highways Service has produced this report as the external Grant funding exceeds £500,000 and require approval from Cabinet as per the scheme of delegation.

This will enable development of the work package, with a view to delivering works on site before the 31/03/2022.

<b>Key Points for Consideration</b>
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4. At this stage key point for consideration is approval of the grant funding amount of £915,000.00. Officers from the highways service are undertaking consultation exercises with associated Elected Members, as scheme proposals develop there is funding included within the grant to complete public consultation where required with all key stakeholders.

- 4.1 **Alternatives Considered**

There are no alternative considerations.

## Costs and Budget Summary

5. The Active Travel Grant Funding of £915,000 is split between capital and revenue funding.

Capital Funding: £910, 000.00 Revenue Funding: £5,000.00

Officers from the Highways Service have agreed a final scheme in Middleton at St Leonards Street/Church Brow. A Prohibition of Driving Traffic Regulation Order will be introduced, with physical measures to block access for motorists. After site clearance the existing surface will be renewed, public realm enhancements and street furniture will also be introduced. Following this the street space will be offered to active forms of travel only. Officers have developed this scheme with local Elected Members and other key stakeholders who all offer full support, this includes local residents. This part of the network is within a historic part of the town and is within Middleton's conservation area. The current budget estimate is £220, 000.00.

The additional £690,000 capital budget will be utilised to deliver other active travel projects in other areas of the borough. Officers from the Highways Service are working closely with elected members and other key stakeholders to develop packages of work with a target date for completion of 31/03/2022.

As scheme proposals develop, where required prior to on site delivery extensive consultation with key defined stakeholders will be undertaken via the Active Travel fund. This is likely to be in the form of letter drops and online information which is made available for the public to view and provide feedback.

## Risk and Policy Implications

6. Without approval from Cabinet Rochdale Borough Councils Highways Service is unable to programme works for site delivery, this could impact the target completion date of 31/03/2022. As a result this would place risk on the external grant funding allocation.

There are no policy implications, all schemes proposed as part of the Active Travel fund will be in line with policy adopted in Rochdale Borough Councils Core Strategy. **(Improving accessibility and delivering sustainable transport SO5)**, GM 2040 Transport Strategy and the adopted Rochdale Transport Delivery Plan.

## Consultation

7. To date officers from the Highways Service has hosted a series of working group meetings with a view to agreeing schemes to deliver as part of the Active Travel Fund, this has included local Elected Members and external delivery partners.

As scheme proposals develop, where required prior to on site delivery extensive consultation with key defined stakeholders will be undertaken via the Active Travel fund. This is likely to be in the form of letter drops and online information which is made available for the public to view and provide feedback.

Schemes also require formal consultation as part of the Road Traffic Regulation Act as the works require Traffic Regulation Orders.

## Background Papers

## Place of Inspection

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| 8. Here you should detail any background papers – | and the place of inspection (N1Riverside or elsewhere) – Note: will insert guidance on what is a background paper |
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## For Further Information Contact:

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