

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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| COMMITTEE           | Communities, Housing and Infrastructure |
| DATE                | 25 <sup>th</sup> August 2016            |
| DIRECTOR            | Pete Leonard                            |
| TITLE OF REPORT     | External Funding for Transport Projects |
| REPORT NUMBER       | CHI/16/140                              |
| CHECKLIST COMPLETED | Yes                                     |

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of external funds that have been awarded to, or which may become available to, the Council for transportation projects and to seek approval for officers to spend any funds successfully obtained for the purposes described in this report.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that Members:

- a) Note the offer to the Council from Sustrans Scotland of a further match-funding contribution of £750,000 to the pedestrian and cycle infrastructure associated with the Diamond Bridge;
- b) Agree to the terms of this offer, namely that the resulting savings on the Diamond Bridge scheme from the Capital programme be re-invested in active travel projects;
- c) Accept the award and receive the funds into the existing Non-Housing Capital Programme Active Travel Infrastructure Fund;
- d) Approve the expenditure of approximately £2,867 in match-funding awarded to the Council from the Sustrans School Cycle and Scooter Parking Fund 2016;
- e) Note, and approve the expenditure of, the additional award of £20,000 received from Transport Scotland's Smarter Choices Smarter Places fund;
- f) Approve the expenditure of £102,000 awarded to the Council from Transport Scotland's Grant for Chargeplace Scotland Network 2016/17 fund; and
- g) Note the awards made to the Council from the Sustrans Community Links Fund 2016/17 and the Scottish Government's Air Quality Grant Scheme 2016/17.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The £750,000 awarded to the Council from Sustrans Scotland is a further match-funding contribution to pedestrian and cycle infrastructure associated with the Diamond Bridge scheme. Sustrans has requested, as with their previous contributions to this project, that any savings resulting from their contribution be re-invested by Aberdeen City Council in active travel projects to be delivered between now and 2018.

In 2015/16, a Non-Housing Capital Programme (NHCP) budget line was created for Active Travel Infrastructure, encompassing the savings on the Diamond Bridge scheme resulting from the initial Sustrans contribution. It is anticipated that the additional savings resulting from this further contribution will also sit within this fund. As this remains Aberdeen City Council money, although ring-fenced for active travel, there will be scope to match-fund this with further contributions from Sustrans and other bodies in the future, meaning that the ultimate monetary value of this award to the Council could be as high as £1.5million. No impacts on any other Council budgets are foreseen at this stage.

Funds awarded from Sustrans for school cycle and scooter parking projects require 50% match funding. Match-funding for each application has already been secured via the Council's Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets (CWSS) allocation from the Scottish Government. There may be maintenance implications associated with such infrastructure in the future for which a suitable budget would have to be sought.

Funds awarded to the Council from the Smarter Choices Smarter Places programme also require 50% match-funding. Sufficient match-funding to more than cover the revised award has already been identified by the Council and was articulated in the draft Smarter Choices Smarter Places programme approved by this Committee in May 2016.

Transport Scotland's Grant for Chargeplace Scotland Network 2016/17 fund is 100% grant funding so there will be no impacts on any Council budgets at this stage. There may be maintenance implications associated with such infrastructure in the future for which a suitable budget would have to be sought.

### 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

### 5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

#### 5.1 **Sustrans Community Links Fund 2015/16 – Further Contribution to Diamond Bridge Works**

- 5.1.1 It was identified that the ultimate value of the pedestrian and cycle elements of the Diamond Bridge works far exceeded the estimate originally supplied to Sustrans Scotland in 2015 and hence the contribution from Sustrans to these elements was far less than the maximum 50% required. Council officers therefore contacted Sustrans to say that any further contribution to these works would be greatly appreciated.
- 5.1.2 Following identification of underspend in their 2015/16 Community Links programme, Sustrans has offered the Council a further contribution of £750,000 for these works. As per the previous offer, this is on condition that the savings from the Council's NHCP resulting from the contribution be re-invested in active travel, particularly projects arising from the emerging Aberdeen Active Travel Action Plan, between now and 2018.
- 5.1.3 A NHCP Active Travel Infrastructure fund was created in 2015 following the initial Sustrans contribution and it is envisaged that the savings from the further award will also be placed here to be used to deliver active travel infrastructure projects between now and 2018. To date, these funds have been used to develop further pedestrian and cycle links around the River Don, and it is envisaged that this will continue in the future, in terms of developing the National Cycle Network Route 1 through the Arjo Wiggins site and contributing to a pedestrian and cycle bridge at Muggiemoss, as well as a range of projects in other areas of the City, including active travel elements of the City Centre Masterplan and forthcoming Sustainable Mobility Action Plan.
- 5.1.4 As NHCP Active Travel Infrastructure money remains Council money, there will be scope in future years to match-fund this with further Sustrans contributions or with Transport Scotland's Smarter Choices Smarter Places initiative. The value to the Council of the award could therefore be as high as £1.5million.
- 5.1.5 It is therefore recommended that Members accept the offer of £750,000 from Sustrans Scotland, agree to the terms of the offer and re-invest the NHCP savings into the Active Travel Infrastructure Fund.

## **5.2 Scotland School Cycle and Scooter Parking Fund 2015**

- 5.2.1 Sustrans Scotland has announced that 50% match-funding is available for projects to implement or improve cycle and scooter parking facilities at schools. In June 2016, applications were submitted on behalf of three schools in Aberdeen.
- 5.2.2 Glashieburn School has requested funds for an additional cycle shelter, capable of accommodating a further 20 bicycles, while Middleton Park School is looking to add an additional two minipods to the school to complement those installed in summer 2015 to cater for a growing number of pupils cycling and scooting to school. This will allow a further sixteen bikes and sixteen scooters to be safely parked at the school.

5.2.3 A total of £2,867 in match-funding was therefore requested from Sustrans Scotland by the Council and, in July, it was announced that applications had been successful. The remaining cost for installation of the new facilities will be met from the Council's CWSS budget. It is therefore recommended that Members approve the expenditure of the award for the purposes described above.

5.2.4 A further application was submitted by Sport Aberdeen to implement facilities for the benefit of users of both Tullos Swimming Pool and Tullos School, which was also successful. These will take the form of a covered cycle shelter able to accommodate 12 bicycles and a scooter rack for 12 scooters. Sport Aberdeen will match the Sustrans allocation with a Sustainable Travel Grant, recently awarded by Nestrans.

### **5.3 Smarter Choices Smarter Places**

5.3.1 At the meeting of this Committee in May 2016 (CHI/16/085) Members were advised that £210,391 had been awarded to Aberdeen City Council from Transport Scotland via the Smarter Choices Smarter Place (SCSP) fund. Members approved the Council's SCSP programme and the expenditure of the award.

5.3.2 At the end of May, the Council was awarded a further £20,000 from the SCSP fund for additional cycle monitoring, school travel planning activities and the subsidisation of car club vehicles in regeneration areas. While, as with the rest of the programme, this requires 50% match-funding, the Council identified sufficient match-funding in the original programme to more than cover this additional award.

5.3.3 It is therefore recommended that Members note the additional funding awarded to the SCSP programme and approve the expenditure of this for the purposes described above.

### **5.4 Grant for Chargeplace Scotland Network 2016/17**

5.4.1 Aberdeen City Council has successfully bid for and been awarded £102,000 of funding from Transport Scotland, the Scottish Government Transport Agency, through the Grant for Chargeplace Scotland Network 2016/17 fund. Transport Scotland has been providing funding to Councils in Scotland since 2011 in order to develop a network of electric vehicle charge points with the project now branded as Chargeplace Scotland. Aberdeen is regarded as a strategic hub in the Chargeplace Scotland project.

5.4.2 This funding is for the procurement, installation and commissioning of electric vehicle charge points as part of the National ChargePlace Scotland network and will deliver the following:

- 1 x 50 kW charge point at Kingswells Park and Ride (rapid triple charger);
- 1 x 22 kW charge point at Kingswells Park and Ride (rapid triple charger);

- 1 x 50 kW charge point at Bridge of Don (double fast charger); and
- 1 x 22 kW charge point at Bridge of Don (double fast charger).

As part of the grant funding condition, it is expected that the units should be in the ground and operational by the end of January 2017. This will take the number of Council-implemented public charging points up to 27.

5.4.3 Discussions have commenced with Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) regarding the availability of power supplies in these locations and with the Council's procurement team to establish how best to undertake the procurement. It is therefore recommended that the Members approve the expenditure of £102,00 awarded to the Council from Transport Scotland's Grant for Chargeplace Scotland Network 2016/17.

## 5.5 Sustrans Community Links Fund 2016/17

5.5.1 It was reported to this Committee in March 2016 (CHI/16/010) that several applications for match-funding had been submitted to Sustrans Scotland's Community Links Fund 2016/17 for a series of projects to improve pedestrian and cycle infrastructure throughout the City. Members approved the expenditure of any funds successfully obtained.

5.5.2 In May 2016, Sustrans announced that all of the Council's applications had been successful. Further details are provided in the table below.

| Project   | Award  |
|---|--|
| Riverside Route – Bridge of Dee to RGU Detailed Design          | £30,000 – full award for feasibility and design.   |
| River Don Path Designs  | £20,000 – full award for feasibility and design.   |
| A90 Trunk Road Pedestrian and Cycle Route North Detailed Design | £30,000 - full award for feasibility and design.   |
| A96 Aberdeen to Blackburn Pedestrian and Cycle Route            | £30,000 - full award for feasibility and design.   |
| Seaton Park East Path   | £27,500 – full award for implementation.   |
| Junction Improvements   | £25,000 – full award for feasibility and design.   |
| River Don south side path by Grandhome Pedestrian Bridge        | £54,000 – full award for implementation.   |
| Craigshaw Drive Cycle Improvements                              | £45,000 – provisional award to complete detailed design; full award will be awarded following agreement of the design by Sustrans. |
| A90 Parkway Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements.                  | £165,000 – provisional award to complete detailed design; full award will be awarded following agreement of the design             |

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|   | by Sustrans.   |
| Seaton Park Entrances                             | £25,000 – provisional award to complete detailed design; full award will be awarded following agreement of the design by Sustrans. |
| Anderson Drive Pedestrian and Cycle Route Phase 1 | £32,500 – provisional award to complete detailed design; full award will be awarded following agreement of the design by Sustrans. |
| <b>TOTAL AWARD</b>                                | <b>£484, 000</b>   |

5.5.3 Match-funding of the remainder of each project's costs will come from Nestrans, the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route Non-Motorised Users Mitigation Fund, or from the Council's Environmental Services team. Projects require to be completed by the end of March 2017. Updates will be included within the regular Strategic and Local Transport Projects bulletin to this Committee.

## 5.6 Air Quality Grant Scheme

5.6.1 It was reported to this Committee in May 2016 (CHI/16/085) that an application had been made to the Scottish Government's Air Quality Grant Scheme for funding for projects to enable the Council to improve air quality and implement measures included in the Air Quality Action Plan. Members approved the expenditure of any funds successfully obtained.

5.6.2 In May 2016, it was announced that the Council had been successful in the application, and £47,000 has been awarded towards soft measures sustainable transport interventions, including promotional campaigns (£4,500), events (£9,000), the Eco Stars fleet recognitions scheme (£27,000), car club infrastructure (£2,500) and school travel planning (£4,000).

## 6. IMPACT

### Improving Customer Experience –

The projects being delivered under the programmes described in this report are intended to benefit all members of the travelling public by making it easier, faster and safer to travel around the City by sustainable modes of transport.

Measures to encourage and facilitate more walking and cycling will enable people to be more physically active and maintain a healthy weight, thus improving health and wellbeing (including mental health). Regular exercise is

known to prevent incidences of many health conditions such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes and various types of cancer.

Sustainable transport interventions that encourage a shift away from single-occupancy car travel will have environmental benefits by improving air quality and reducing noise (both of which also impact upon health) and contributing to a decline in carbon dioxide and other harmful emissions.

Measures to improve accessibility by foot, bicycle and public transport and to grow car club membership will improve accessibility to jobs, education and services for those without private transport thus promoting equality of opportunity and helping combat social exclusion.

### **Improving Staff Experience –**

Staff living and/or working in the City will experience the same benefits from the proposed programmes of work as those described for the customer above.

### **Improving our use of Resources –**

Taking advantage of external funds allows the Council to maximise spend and deliver an increased level of service, resulting in net benefits for the taxpayer.

The long-term health benefits accruing from more physically active lifestyles should reduce public sector expenditure on health and social care in the future.

Similarly, the long-term environmental benefits resulting from an increase in sustainable travel at the expense of single occupancy vehicle travel could have financial benefits for the organisation through the reduced likelihood of fines being imposed as a result of air quality breaches and a reduced need for expenditure on responses to events attributable to climate change and on infrastructure measures to cope with such events in the future.

### **Corporate -**

The contents of this report link to the Community Plan vision of creating a sustainable City with an integrated transport system that is accessible to all.

All of the projects referred to in this report will contribute to delivery of the Smarter Mobility aims of Aberdeen – *The Smarter City: We will develop, maintain and promote road, rail, ferry and air links from the city to the UK and the rest of the world. We will encourage cycling and walking, and We will provide and promote a sustainable transport system, including cycling, which reduces our carbon emissions.*

The projects identified in this report will assist in the delivery of actions identified in the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) 2013, in particular the Thematic Priority of Safer Communities (Safer Roads) and the Multi-lateral Priority – Integrated Transport (Aberdeen is easy to access and move around in).

The SCSP programme provides opportunities for joint working with a range of public and private sector partners to deliver the programme's outcomes, including Aberdeen Inspired, NHS Grampian, public transport operators and Co-wheels. As was the case in 2015/16, Aberdeen City Council will work closely with Aberdeenshire Council, the Moray Council and Nestrans on a joint SCSP evaluation exercise.

**Public –**

This report may be of interest to members of the public as it details proposed new transport projects, designed to make travelling throughout the City and the wider region easier, quicker and safer for all members of the travelling public, particularly those travelling by sustainable transport modes.

An Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) has not been undertaken as the projects described in this report flow directly from the Council's Local Transport Strategy 2016 and the Nestrans Regional Transport Strategy, both of which have been subject to their own EHRIAs.

A Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) has not been undertaken as none of the proposed projects should impact on the privacy of any individual.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

There is no identified maintenance budget for the sustainable and active travel infrastructure described in this report. In the event of repairs being required in the future, funds would have to be identified for this. This will be minimised by the use of long-lasting and robust construction materials which will increase the lifespan of and minimise the risk of damage to facilities, as well as seeking warranties from suppliers. The proposed Minipods for Middleton Park School, for example, will come with a five-year warranty. In all cases, external funding will be sought to cover maintenance and repair costs in the first instance. The risks of inaction (not improving conditions for active travel) are also significant and are likely to result in a poor quality environment, increasing emissions contributing towards climate change, poor reputation for the City of Aberdeen and a decline in active travel which would have significant implications for the health and wellbeing of the citizens of Aberdeen.

There is a risk of reputational damage to the Council should it decline offers of external funding which would allow an enhanced level of service to be delivered to the public with fewer Council resources. There is also an opportunity in terms of the Sustrans contribution to the Diamond Bridge works in that this may allow the Council to take advantage of further external funding opportunities in the future.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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