

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	City Growth & Resources
DATE	25 th April 2019
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	External Funding for Transport Projects 2019/20
REPORT NUMBER	PLA/19/225
DIRECTOR	Not Applicable
CHIEF OFFICER	Gale Beattie
REPORT AUTHOR	Amye Robinson
TERMS OF REFERENCE	Purpose 2

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report advises the Committee of a number of external funding opportunities that the Council has submitted funding applications for and may soon become available to the Council for transportation projects and, where these are successful, requests Committee approval for the use of match funding for some projects.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

2.1 Note that Aberdeen City Council:-

- a) Has been successful for funding from Paths for All to deliver projects outlined in the Smarter Choices, Smarter Places 2019/20 Programme (See Appendix 1);
- b) Is bidding for funding from NESTRANS Revenue Programme 2019/20 to deliver projects outlined in this report (See Appendix 2A);
- c) Is bidding for funding from NESTRANS Capital 2019/20 funds to deliver projects outlined in this report (See Appendix 2B);
- d) is bidding to the Sustrans Community Links 2019/20 to deliver projects outlined in this report (See Appendix 3);
- e) is bidding for Transport Scotland Low Emission Zone (LEZ) Funding (Appendix 4)
- f) Uses Developer Obligations to construct active travel links to the A96 Corridor (Appendix 5); and
- g) has bid for funding, and spent funding from, Transport Scotland for EV Charge Point Warranty & Annual Service Contracts.

- 2.2 Approves using the Civitas PORTIS project works funding as part of the match funding mechanism;
- 2.3 Approves the cost estimate, proposed funding sources and detailed design for the Craighshaw Drive-Cycle Lanes project;
- 2.4 Instruct officers to progress all necessary approvals, permissions, licenses, agreements and consents required and implement the projects;
- 2.5 Notes that the procurement of contracts with estimated expenditure of £250,000 and above (Works) and £50,000 and above (Goods or Services) for revenue projects, was reported to, and approved at, the Strategic Commissioning Committee at its meeting on 28th March 2019 and is detailed in the Appendices; and
- 2.6 Notes that the procurement of contracts with estimated expenditure of £250,000 and above (Works) and £50,000 and above (Goods or Services) for capital projects is included within the procurement business case to this Committee for approval and is detailed in the relevant Appendices.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Aberdeen City Council (the 'Council') has been invited to bid for a variety of transport related external funding opportunities. The various funding streams, if we are successful, will be used to deliver schemes which contribute to the aims and objectives of the following Policy and Strategy Documents
 - Aberdeen Local Transport Strategy
 - Aberdeen Active Travel Action Plan
 - Aberdeen Local Outcome Improvement Plan
 - Aberdeen City Centre Masterplan
 - NESTRANS Regional Transport Strategy
 - North East Scotland Regional Economic Strategy
 - Aberdeen Local Development Plan
 - Strategic Development Plan
 - Air Quality Action Plan
 - Roads Hierarchy Principles as agreed by the former Communities Housing and Infrastructure Committee in August 2017
- 3.2 Committee is asked to note that under the "Powers Delegated to Officers" approved by Council on 4th March 2019, this funding can be accepted by the Chief Officer of Strategic Place Planning as follows: -

"23)To approve applications for grant funding, thereafter, following consultation with the Convenor of the City Growth and Resources Committee, to accept grant funding provided that the terms and conditions of such funding have been approved by the Chief Officer-Finance and the Head of Commercial and Procurement Services. Expenditure of such grant funding may then be approved by the relevant Chief Officer subject to any such terms and conditions and in compliance with the ACC Procurement Regulations and Financial Regulations."

3.3 **Smarter Choices Smarter Places 2019/20**

3.3.1 The Council has been successful for funding of £211,000 from Paths for All, who administer the National Smarter Choices, Smarter Places (SCSP) programme on behalf of the Scottish Government. The funding offer is still conditional on Paths for All receiving the appropriate grant from Transport Scotland. The funding is to be used for revenue projects to promote behaviour change and increase the number of people using active and sustainable modes of transport as an alternative to the private car. Although the funding is awarded to Local Authorities, they are encouraged to work with local partners to deliver the schemes.

3.3.2 In order to use the funding, the Council must provide a match of the same amount which it must evidence that it is spending on sustainable transport projects in 2019/20. Transport Officers at the Council have chosen to use the Civitas Portis EU project as the match, where at least £215,000 will be spent in 2019/20 on sustainable transport projects.

3.3.3 As with previous years, the Council will be delivering the Smarter Choices Smarter Places projects via Getabout, the sustainable transport brand for the North East of Scotland, concentrating on the following four themes:

- Getabout in the City
- Getabout for Education
- Getabout by Active Travel
- Getabout by Sustainable and Environmentally-Friendly Vehicle

3.3.4 Full details of the SCSP programme can be found in Appendix 1.

3.4 **NESTRANS Revenue & Capital Schemes (2019/20) - approved in principle by NESTRANS Board**

3.4.1 The Council has approval in principle for receiving funds from the NESTRANS Revenue Budget (2019/20) to undertake two schemes which would be 100% funded which are detailed in Appendix 2A. A number of capital schemes have also been presented to NESTRANS for funding through their capital budget. It should be noted that not all capital schemes are 100% funded; where this is the case they are split 50/50 with Sustrans funding. This information is detailed in Appendices 2A, 2B, and 3. Due to the amount of NESTRANS funding available it is not possible to fund all projects which have been put forward and they have therefore been placed on a Reserve List, this is detailed in Appendix 2C.

3.4.2 The NESTRANS budget and list of projects (including the reserve list) were approved in principle at the Nestrans Board meeting in February 2019. However final Nestrans approval is dependent on the Nestrans funding allocation from both Aberdeen City Council's and Aberdeenshire Council's budget setting process in March and February respectively. The outcomes of this will be reported to the April 2019 Nestrans Board for final programme decisions.

3.4.3 The development of the Craigshaw Drive- Cycle Lanes project has been progressed as instructed by the Communities, Housing & Infrastructure Committee of January 2018. The current estimated cost for progressing the project to implementation is £1million. Funding sources for implementation are as detailed in Appendices 2B & 3. The Traffic Regulation Order for Craigshaw Drive is currently being progressed by Traffic Management at the Council. Appendix 6 contains drawings of the current detailed design intended for implementation.

3.5 Other Sustrans 'Places for Everyone' (2019/20) funded schemes

3.5.1 In addition to those which are matched with NESTRANS funding, the Council intends to apply to the Sustrans 'Places for Everyone' Fund (2019/20) to fund additional schemes which contribute towards achieving the aims and outcomes as referenced in section 3.1. The Sustrans Places for Everyone Design funding can be 100% funded, whereas construction projects require 50% match-funding. Where the Council has applied for Sustrans funding projects are either matched through NESTRANS funding or are 100% funded.

3.5.2 Full details of these schemes can be found in Appendix 3.

3.6 Transport Scotland-Low Emission Zones (LEZs) Funding

3.6.1 Transport Scotland made funding available to local authorities in 2018/19 to support them in progressing LEZs and similar funding is being made available in 2019/20 with the application process starting in March 2019. The Council did not apply for funding in 2018/19 however the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) were engaged by Transport Scotland to develop the baseline air quality model for Aberdeen on which future option testing will take place.

3.6.2 The Council intends to apply for this funding to cover the costs of the next stage of the business case development process which is likely to take the form of an appraisal of different LEZ options as well as public and stakeholder engagement which is hoped to culminate in the identification of a preferred option.

3.6.3 Details can be found in Appendix 4.

3.7 Developer Obligations

3.7.1 Developer Obligations exist for the A96 corridor area. Officers have identified a missing active travel link between Auchmill Road and Middlefield which would then link to the A96 Corridor. It is proposed that Developer Obligations funding would contribute towards the construction costs for the Active Travel Links which would form part of the wider Middlefield path upgrade scheme. This project would be led by the Structures team at the Council with Transport Strategy & Programmes support.

3.7.2 Details can be found in Appendix 5.

3.8 Transport Scotland-EV Charge Points Warranty and Annual Service Contracts

- 3.8.1 Transport Scotland offered funding of up to £92,000 to the Council for the warranties and service agreements on 37 charge points through until 31st December 2022 to ensure the charge point network remains fit for purpose. This offer was made to the Council on the 26th February 2019 and had to be spent by end of March 2019.
- 3.8.2 In order for the Council to follow due diligence in light of the short timescales in which to spend the funding, approval to procure was made under Procurement Regulation 3.10 where a contract is urgently required to meet the exigencies of the Service. This request was made through Procurement Control Board on the 11th March 2019.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Council's Smarter Choices Smarter Places (SCSP) allocation requires 50% match-funding. The 50% match will come from the CIVITAS PORTIS European project.
- 4.2 Nestrans provides 100% grant funding for some projects therefore no match funding is required in those instances.
- 4.3 Sustrans typically match-funds construction works projects on a 50/50 basis and design/development on a 100% basis.
- 4.4 Proposed projects will improve and add to current Public Road asset, increasing maintenance requirements in the short and long-term. Any additional maintenance resourcing requirements will be included in future operational assessments and plans. The development of projects will look to maximise opportunities to undertake tandem renewal works and extend the life of current assets which will be altered by proposals, with the aim of achieving best value.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The funding will have to be spent in accordance with any grant funding conditions and legal agreements which are attached to it.
- 5.2 Any procurement will be undertaken in line with the Council's Procurement Regulations.
- 5.3 The majority of the bids have complied with internal governance procedures as detailed in the relevant Appendices. Only the project under Developer Obligations is still to be approved by Transportation Programme Board.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

	Risk	Low (L), Medium (M),High (H)	Mitigation
Financial	Projects come in over or under budget	M	<p>Monthly monitoring of projects using Project Status Reviews (PSRs) which are subject to scrutiny by Transport Programme Board</p> <p>Where possible, procurement of maintenance and warranty agreements alongside goods and services and through the use of high-quality design and construction materials to ensure the longevity of new and improved infrastructure. External funding will be sought for maintenance in the first instance to minimise reliance on future Council budgets</p>
Legal	Officers breach grant conditions or terms of financial standing orders	L	Work closely with legal and procurement colleagues from the application stage to minimise this.
Employee	Insufficient staff to undertake the full programme	M	Monthly monitoring of projects using Project Status Reviews (PSRs) will reflect changes to available resources at earliest possible point.
Customer	Infrastructure/ goods not fit for purpose	L	National design guidance followed and feedback information from previous projects used to inform delivery. Where possible, Stakeholder and Public Engagement will inform the design.
Environment	The projects work towards delivering the outcomes of the Local Transport Strategy which has a specific	L	Consideration of any potential environmental impacts during the project and the identification of appropriate mitigation in consultation with

	environmental objective- 'Improved air quality and environment'		appropriate Council Officers and bodies
Technology	There are no technological risks	L	Through the deployment of the 'Travel Tracker' this can incentive young people to undertake active travel choices through gamification, thereby reduce congestion, improve air quality and promote a healthier lifestyle. Through continued promotion of electric and hydrogen vehicles maintains Aberdeen's position as a leader in these technologies.
Reputational	Committee decides not to approve the expenditure of external funding and is able to deliver less for the residents of the city and is more reliant on its own reducing funding	L	Maximise external funding opportunities in order to deliver schemes to benefit the city without being wholly reliant on internal/ local budgets

7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report
Prosperous Economy	Contributes to Key Drivers 1.3 (Improving investment into Aberdeen and Aberdeen businesses) and 2.2 (Ensuring access for all employers to skilled labour) in that a transport network which supports the efficient and effective movement of people and goods is critical to maintaining a healthy economy for the city and wider region and supporting access to employment opportunities for all members of society.
Prosperous People	Contributes to Key Drivers 3.4 (Improving health and reducing inequalities). The projects encourage and increase opportunities for walking, cycling and public transport for everyday journeys, contributing to reducing harmful emissions from road transport.
Prosperous Place	Contributes to Key Drivers 11.4 (Encouraging adoption of healthier lifestyles) and 15.1 (Supporting different ways for active travel in everyday journeys, using partners and volunteers to address safety, infrastructure, fitness, well-being and confidence) in that the projects will encourage

	and increase opportunities for people to walk or cycle for everyday journeys, thus improving health and wellbeing. Also contributes to Key Driver 14.1 (Reducing emissions across the city through delivery of Aberdeen's Sustainable Energy Action Plan 'Powering Aberdeen') in that encouraging modal shift to active and sustainable forms of transport should contribute towards reducing harmful emissions from road transport.
Enabling Technology	The SCSP bid contains actions relating to the promotion of electric vehicles, which is an emerging and developing low carbon vehicle technology.

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Customer Service Design	Using external funding allows the Council to undertake work for the benefit of the residents of Aberdeen without being solely reliant on internal funds.
Governance	All projects have been subject to internal governance and continue to be monitored on a monthly basis through the Transportation Programme Board.
Workforce	By bringing in external funding, the workforce are able to get involved with a greater range of tasks and form new working arrangements with funders.
Partnerships and Alliances	The securing of external funding demonstrates not only good partnership working with funders but a vote of confidence from them that Aberdeen City is a Council worth funding. Many projects in the SCSP programme will also rely on partnership working in their delivery.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	Full EHRIA not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Duty of Due Regard/ Fairer Scotland Duty	Not applicable

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

10. APPENDICES (if applicable)

Appendix 1 – Smarter Choices, Smarter Places Programme 2019/20

Appendix 2A - NESTRANS Revenue funded Schemes 19/20 already approved by the NESTRANS board

Appendix 2B – Shortlisted NESTRANS Capital funded Schemes 19/20 already approved by the NESTRANS Board

Appendix 2C - NESTRANS Revenue and Capital funded Schemes 19/20 Reserve List already approved by the NESTRANS Board

Appendix 3 – Sustrans Places for Everyone 2019/20 Bids matched through Nestrans or are 100% funded if for Design Work, to be submitted to Sustrans.

Appendix 4- Transport Scotland Funding for Low Emission Zones (LEZs)

Appendix 5- Developer Obligations for Active Travel Links on A96 Corridor

Appendix 6-Craigshaw Drive-Cycle Lanes Detailed Design

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Amye Robinson

Senior Project Officer, Transportation Strategy & Programmes

ARobinson@aberdeencity.gov.uk

01224 523197