

11 December 2023**Agenda Item:**

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR GREEN GROWTH, INVESTMENTS & ASSETS

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE TRANSPORT ADVISORY SERVICE - KIMBERLEY

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for providing a targeted transport advisory support service to support Broxtowe Borough Council (BBC) with the feasibility and delivery of the Kimberley Levelling Up funding and to secure the necessary approvals to recharge for officer time.

Background

Policy background

2. National policy highlights the importance of sustainable and effective transport infrastructure to connect people and places and support economic growth. The national cycling and walking strategy (Gear Change) set out the Government's vision to encourage cycling and walking over shorter journeys.
3. The **Nottinghamshire Plan** sets out the Council's ambitions to improve transport connections, protect the environment, reduce carbon, and improve health and wellbeing by making journeys easier, supporting healthier and more sustainable transport options and expanding our cycling and walking networks. The Council's **Local Transport Plan (LTP)** and **Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan (LCWIP)** prioritise key schemes which are designed to help deliver these ambitions.
4. Improving access to training and jobs, and moving goods more efficiently, is central to Nottinghamshire's economic recovery and levelling up agenda. The Council's **Economic Transition Plan (ETP)** looks to maximise opportunities for transport infrastructure improvements within Nottinghamshire and ensure those projects with secured funding are ready for delivery. To help deliver these priorities, the Infrastructure and Transport Programme Delivery team work closely with a range of partners and stakeholders. The Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) is an example of working with our partners (Nottingham and Derby City Councils) to deliver various cross-area sustainable transport projects, and the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) could provide similar opportunities.

Broxtowe Levelling Up Funding

5. BBC has been successful with a Levelling Up Fund bid for Kimberley and secured £16.5m. This funding covers projects that would regenerate the town centre and create a new cycle route. The Town Centre Regeneration project includes the construction of a new Business and Community Hub built in the place of the current Parish Hall. This will provide new community and business space and flexible co-working spaces which will be made available to local start-ups and small and medium enterprises.

6. The Town Centre scheme will also see:
 - grants being offered to existing local businesses to support town centre regeneration
 - a laser lights display, and virtual reality project bringing Kimberley to life
7. A new cycle route will link up with existing routes in the area and connect Kimberley with key employment, retail and leisure sites in the following areas: Bennerley Viaduct, Giltbrook Shopping Park, Eastwood and Phoenix Park tram stop. This project also involves constructing an Eastern Ramp for improved cycle and pedestrian access onto the Grade II listed Bennerley Viaduct, and a visitors' centre to provide facilities for cyclists and tourists. The improved network will:
 - create an accessible cycle route between Kimberley and the Erewash Canal and into Derbyshire
 - make Kimberley more accessible for those without a car
 - encourage people to travel in and out of the area in healthier and more environmentally friendly ways

Proposal

8. BBC has secured approximately £8m through Levelling Up Funds for active travel measures to provide better access arrangements at Bennerley Viaduct and through to both Kimberley and the tram terminus at Phoenix Park. However, there were no detailed designs provided as part of the bidding process.
9. Since the funding was announced, the County Council have been providing some initial advice and support to scope out the feasibility work, what information will be required to secure the necessary approvals and to consider the practicalities of delivering the funding. However, in order to secure the officer time required to then help steer and coordinate this advice, a proposal (in agreement with BBC) has been worked up to recharge for officer time. This involved mirroring the service provided by the Business Advisory team for BBC and would cover the costs of the officer time based on how much time/support they wanted from the county council (across all the teams working on these types of schemes).
10. The support being offered includes officers' advice and support on:
 - the Council's approved design standards (taking note of Active Travel England's LTN1/20 standards) and the Council's transport strategy as detailed within its published Local Transport Plan (LTP)
 - advice on how this would complement (or ideally deliver) the priorities included in the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)
 - coordinating the delivery of any active travel measures, utilising and in accordance with the LUF grant conditions and securing the approvals required
 - the complexities to delivery of such infrastructure and whilst planning would normally be around providing an ideal network provision other factors need to be taken into consideration
 - land availability, availability and value of funding, the window in which available funding must be spent; local, stakeholder and Local Transport Authority (ie the County Council) support and to name the main key considerations.
11. The budget responsibility will sit with BBC as the fund-holder but any technical approvals will need to be through the County. Both organisations will then have additional approval processes

to enable delivery of any such measures. The County Council will look to work with and support BBC to identify and deliver value for money proposals that are deliverable within the funding window and are supported locally and supported by the organisations.

12. The following is a range of services that will be delivered / supported by the transport team:

- Commissioning of feasibility work on specified corridors, namely Kimberley to Phoenix Park and Ride, Kimberley to Bennerley Viaduct and the Retail Park.
- Commissioning of detailed design or agreeing design checks to ensure NCC standards are being included on any schemes as agreed by BBC post feasibility assessments.
- Project managing schemes through design and delivery processes to ensure schemes meet NCC design standards and any necessary local and political consultation.
- Preparing reports for Nottinghamshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment to seek approvals for the different stages, including detailed design / consultation / delivery.
- Working with BBC colleagues to provide a one team approach to ensure maximum delivery with funding available.
- Providing update reports to BBC as and when required.
- Whilst the County will not provide a dedicated resource for this work it will provide one point of contact to coordinate any work undertaken.

13. In order to secure the commitment (and funding) from BCC, officers have prepared a service level agreement (SLA). The SLA details the level of support that is being offered, how the District/Borough can access the support and the charges payable to the County Council for the service. Currently, the County Council is expecting that the Borough will cover 100% of the total cost of the service provided. This will provide a valuable additional income into the team. It should be noted that the team is already partly funded by recharges to other capital programmes. If the team does not have the resources / expertise to deliver any such services these will be bought in from external providers such as Via East Midlands the or partnership consultancies. The charges will cover all such eventualities, with a daily rate of £285 per day for current financial year and £298 per day for 2024/25.

Next steps

14. Once the SLAs are signed, contracts will be awarded. This SLA model can be used as a template to roll out across other districts / boroughs as need and funding opportunity arises.

Other Options Considered

15. The Council could take a 'do nothing' approach and allow the Borough to develop its own transport proposals. From previous experience such an approach can lead to recommendations about transport facilities that are unacceptable to the County Council. In these instances, when the County Council is unable to accept any such proposals it can be seen as blocking them and preventing funding being utilised to deliver any bid objectives. Doing nothing does not align with the Nottinghamshire Plan 2021-2031, in particular the ambitions to: build skills that help people get good jobs; strengthen business and create better-quality jobs; attract investment in infrastructure, the economy and green growth; and protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

16. By providing a transport advisory service to the Districts and Boroughs there is an opportunity to ensure any measures they have the opportunity to promote are aligned with the County Council's transport aims and objectives. This will provide added value to County Council programmes and maximise funding opportunities to get the best and most efficient outcomes through improved joint working arrangements.

Statutory and Policy Implications

17. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

18. The financial implications have been referred to as part of the main body of the report. The table below shows the likely income expected to be generated. This will be additional income within the existing 'Infrastructure' work area.

Duration Date	Total daily rate ¹	No of adviser days available	Total income maximum
Nov 23- March 24	£285	2.5 days per week for 22 weeks	£15,675
April 24- March 25	£298	2.5 days per week for 52 weeks	£38,740

19. RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that the Cabinet member:

1. Approves the Council providing transport advisory services to Broxtowe Borough Council on the terms detailed in this report.
2. Approves the funding package as detailed in the report and entering into an SLA with Broxtowe Borough Council to deliver the services as set out in this report, such SLA to be in a form approved by the Group Manager for Growth, Infrastructure and Development in conjunction with the Service Director for Legal Services.

Wayne Bexton

Service Director, Green Growth, Investments & Assets

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Joelle Davies, Group Manager 0115 977 4857 joelle.davies@nottsc.gov.uk

¹ Based on the highest salary point of the advisors.

20. Constitutional Comments (LPW 27/11/2023)

The recommendations fall within the remit of the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management by virtue of their terms of reference.

21. Finance Comments (PAA 14/11/2023)

The financial implications are set out in paragraph 18 of the report. The cost of Council staff undertaking the transport advisory work on behalf of Broxtowe Borough Council will be recovered at the rates shown. The cost of any additional resources or expertise that need to be brought in from external providers will be recharged in full. There are no additional financial implications for the Council arising directly from the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

There are no background papers for this report.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

Authorisation

Cabinet Member	Signed	Name Councillor Keith Girling	Date 11th December 2023
Corporate / Service Director	Signed	Name Derek Higton	Date 11th December 2023