

4th July 2013

Agenda Item:

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, HIGHWAYS

ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT IN CYCLING, LEISURE AND HEALTH 2013/14

Purpose of the Report

1. To update on successful external funding bids for cycling improvements.
2. To seek Committee approval for the implementation of additional cycling, leisure and health schemes as detailed in this report.
3. The County Council continues to invest in providing and maintaining quality cycling and pedestrian networks to help improve health, access to local facilities, and the local economy through a programme including:
 - improvements to the Rights of Way network
 - new crossing facilities to encourage more walking and cycling on short trips to local centres, work and school (such as on Bridge Street, Worksop; Musters Road, West Bridgford; B600 Watnall Road, Nuthall; and Windsor Road, Mansfield)
 - cycle path and footway upgrades on routes to work (such as the A612 in Burton Joyce)
 - improvements to leisure routes to attract inward investment and tourism.

Information and Advice

External funding

4. In November 2012 and February 2013 the Transport Planning and Programme Development team submitted four cycle scheme funding bids to Sustrans (who are administering the funding on behalf of the Department for Transport). The locations for the bids were prioritised based on reported accidents records; their ability to improve links to community amenities; and the deliverability of each scheme within the timescales determined by Sustrans. The County Council was informed in April 2013 that it had been successful in securing funding for each of the four schemes totalling £422k. Financial contributions from the County Council's integrated transport allocation (approved at the 21 March 2013 Transport and Highways Committee) were used to lever in the external funding. The four successful schemes, which will provide safety benefits for both cyclists and pedestrians and must be delivered by the end of December 2013, are:

- North Road, Retford – widening and conversion of the existing segregated footway to a shared use pedestrian and cyclist facility. This scheme also includes additional cycle parking facilities in Retford town centre
 - Retford Road, Worksop – new shared use pedestrian and cyclist route
 - Amcott Way/North Road, Retford – widening of footways at the junction and conversion of the existing zebra crossing to a toucan signal crossing
 - London Road, Newark – improvements to the existing cycle route at Balderton Gate. This scheme also includes additional cycle parking facilities in Newark on Trent town centre.
5. Developer contributions have also been secured through section 106 agreements for four specific cycling/walking schemes to be delivered during 2013/14. This external funding has been set aside by the district planning authorities from developer contributions for the following schemes:
- B684 Mapperley Plains cycle route (funded wholly by section 106 monies)
 - Debdale Lane, Keyworth footway improvements (funded wholly by section 106 monies)
 - NCN Route 6, Beeston upgrades (£5k contribution from the integrated transport block)
 - Station Road, East Leake footway improvements (funded wholly by section 106 monies).

Hucknall network rail footbridge

6. Bayles and Wylies, Bestwood Village level crossing – Network Rail have requested a contribution to their proposed footbridge to replace the level crossing. This follows the fatalities that have occurred recently at this level crossing. The County Council is proposing £100,000 from its Integrated Transport block which includes land provision and lighting.

Maintenance investment

7. The Department for Transport has allocated additional capital funding in 2013/14 and 2014/15 for local highway authorities to undertake essential maintenance to renew, repair and extend the life of roads in England. This funding is in addition to the annual government grant provided to councils in England for highways maintenance. It is proposed that the additional maintenance funding for Nottinghamshire (£2.02m in 2013/14; and £1m in 2014/15) is used to support economic growth through strategic route improvements and improved footways linked to health benefits.
8. £500k has been allocated for these footway maintenance improvements. The Highways Division is working with colleagues in Public Health to ensure that strategies and work programmes are aligned. The areas for the footway improvements have therefore been prioritised using obesity prevalence data (provided by Public Health) and footway condition surveys. This work identified the following areas:
- i. Eastwood/Brinsley
 - ii. Stapleford
 - iii. East Retford
 - iv. Central Newark.

9. Work is now underway to identify footway networks (including public rights of way where they form part of the footway network in the estate) to local shops, schools and other facilities within specific housing estates in the above areas to encourage people to be more active and therefore help tackle obesity and its associated health impacts. Costs will then be determined and schemes selected to maximise the impacts of the funding available.

Conclusions

10. Each of the schemes included within the report are still subject to the necessary consultation, statutory undertakings and other issues arising from feasibility studies, detailed scheme investigation, design and consultation.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

12. It is recommended that Committee:
 - a) note the successful external funding bids as detailed in this report
 - b) approve the implementation of all schemes as detailed in this report.

Andrew Warrington
Service Director Highways

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
Sean Parks – Local Transport Plan manager

Constitutional Comments (SHB.31.05.13)

13. Committee have power to decide the Recommendation.

Financial Comments (TMR 07/06/2013)

14. The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers

21 March 2013 Transport & Highways Committee report – Integrated transport and highways maintenance capital programme 2013/14 and appendices
Nottinghamshire Local Transport Plan Strategy 2011/12-2025/26
Nottinghamshire Local Transport Plan Implementation Plan 2011/12-2014/15
Nottinghamshire Local Transport Plan Evidence Base 2010

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All