

**OFFICER DECISION RECORD**

**Decision Title: Active Travel Fund Round 4 (ATF4) – Receipt and Use of Funding**

**Decision reference number:** 01.05.2023

**Decision date:** 26 May 2023

**Background / reason for decision:**

The Active Travel Fund bidding process was announced on January 31st, with the submission date for all schemes being February 24<sup>th</sup>. This gave very little time to develop the bid and also gave no opportunity to inform, or seek approval, from the Combined Authority Committee prior to submission March 17<sup>th</sup> Committee date. The bidding process therefore progressed without Committee endorsement.

However, a steer was sought from the Mayor's office and the bid was subsequently developed in collaboration with the Unitary Authorities.

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Combined Authority was made aware of the £3.64m funding that was to be awarded on the back of the ATF bid.

The Combined Authority are in the process of mobilising to deliver the schemes for completion substantially within this financial year as per the terms of the funding. On this basis there is urgency to progress these schemes in advance of formal reporting of the receipt of the funds to the Combined Authority Committee in June.

The delivery will be a mix of projects either directly delivered by the Combined Authority or grant funded to the constituent Councils as set out below. Urgent approval is sought to begin spending and the issue of grant offer letters to Unitary Authorities in order to begin the work within the short timeframes for delivery.

Delay will increase the risk of not delivering to the terms of the award and the potential for having to return funding to Active Travel England. This could also negatively impact any future funding awards.

Authority	Scheme Name	Type of Scheme	Cost
BCC	Old City and King Street	Construction	£1,655,463
WECA	Residential cycle hangars: phase 1	Construction	£442,727
BCC	Filwood Quietway	Development	£141,757
BCC	Deanery Road	Development	£261,890
BCC	Old Market Quietway	Development	£259,111
BCC	Malago Greenway	Development	£180,855
SGC	Warmley to Longwell Green	Development	£200,000
WECA	Residential cycle hangars: phase 2	Construction	£500,000
Total			£3,641,803

**Options considered:**

Option 1 – As recommended, to accept and begin spend of funding in advance of Committee approval.

Option 2 -Not to accept the funding. This would cause reputational harm with Active Travel England as the funding body, decrease confidence in the Combined Authority as a delivery body, and result in the benefits of the funding not being achieved for the region.

Option 3 - Not to proceed with spending the funding and advancing the projects until after a Committee decision. This would risk agreed project timelines with the funding body possibly leading to the return of the monies.

**Decision:**

To confirm the receipt of £3,641,803 ATF4 funding and give authority to spend in line with the conditions of the award.

**Consultation:** Consultation on the content of the bid and acceptance of the award was undertaken with the Unitary Authorities through senior officers and members throughout February and March 2023.

**Officer making decision:** Stephen Fitzgerald

**Position:** Director of Investment and Corporate Services

**Report / appendices / background documents:** *If appropriate, list any documents relevant to this decision – these can be included as attachments to this decision record, if appropriate*