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# **Executive Decision**

## **Active Travel Funding 2025/26**

Decision to be taken by: City Mayor

Decision to be taken on: 14 August 2025

Lead director/officer: Andrew L Smith, Director of  
Planning, Development and Transportation

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### **Useful information**

■ Ward(s) affected: All

- Report author: Daniel Pearman
- Author contact details: 0116 454 3061
- Report version number: 1

## **1. Summary**

Leicester City Council has been awarded a total £2,003k as part of the government's Consolidated Active Travel Fund. The grant is comprised of £1,549k capital and £454k revenue.

This has replaced what was previously two separate grants – the Active Travel Fund, which was for the delivery of capital projects; and the Active Travel Capability Fund, which was for the recruitment or training of officers to design and deliver the above schemes and for the delivery of behaviour change programmes.

The grant must be spent on projects or programmes that support walking, wheeling or cycling; whether that be the design and delivery of capital schemes or the delivery of behaviour change programmes or specific officer training.

## **2. Recommended actions/decision**

It is recommended that the City Mayor:

- a) Approves this proposed programme to be taken forward for delivery during the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years.
- b) Approves the addition of £1.55m to the Connecting Leicester capital project within the General Fund capital programme as an immediate start in 2025/26, financed by grant funding
- c) Delegates authority to the Director of Planning, Development and Transportation, in consultation with the City Mayor and Assistant City Mayor - Environment and Transport, to make amendments within this programme to enable project delivery in accordance with the grant requirements.

## **2. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement**

Details on Consolidated Active Travel Fund were considered at the 25 June session of the Economic Development, Transport, and Climate Emergency Scrutiny Commission.

## 4. Background and further details

### Introduction and Grant Terms

Leicester City Council has been allocated a total of £2,003k as part of the Consolidated Active Travel Fund, comprising:

- £1,549k Capital – to be spent on the design and delivery of capital projects that enable or support walking, wheeling, or cycling
- £454k Revenue – to be spent on behaviour change, officer recruitment, or officer training in support of walking, wheeling, or cycling

Though the funding must be spent by the 2026/27 financial year, capital projects should be commenced within the 2025/26 financial year.

### Proposed Programme

The proposed programme is attached as Appendix A

## 5. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

### 5.1 Financial implications

This report seeks approval for the addition of £1.55m to the Connecting Leicester project within the 2025/26 General Fund capital programme, to be financed entirely by grant. The existing budget as at the start of the 2025/26 financial year is £3.13m including £656k which was added for Active Travel as part of the 2024/25 Capital Outturn Report.

Staffing costs continue to be incurred in relation to the on-going Active Travel revenue schemes, and the revenue grant of £454k will finance these costs, enabling its continuation.

Signed: Stuart McAvoy – Head of Finance

Dated: 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025

### 5.2 Legal implications

The report identifies various projects which are to be funded through Central Government grant(s), each scheme/project will have appropriate legal considerations as they are developed therefore Legal and Procurement Services will need to be engaged as needed.

The Authority is receiving this funding in its statutory role as a local transport authority. In accepting the Government funding the Authority will be required, under the terms of any grant funding agreement comply with conditions attached to that grant funding. In spending the grant funding, the Authority will also need to consider the applicability of the Procurement Act 2023 and the Subsidy Control Act 2022. Expenditure of the funding will therefore be subject to advice from the Legal and Procurement Services, to ensure that each acts lawfully.

Signed: Mannah Begum, Principal Lawyer, Commercial & Contract Legal Services

Dated: 12 June 2025

### 5.3 Equalities implications

The report provides details of the government grants made available for transport improvements in the 25/26 financial year. There are no direct equality implications arising from the report. Transport impacts on an individual's quality of life as an enabler of economic and social inclusion. Better transport makes access to healthcare, jobs, education and training, and community possible.

Signed: Equalities Officer, Surinder Singh, Ext 37 4148

Dated: 10 June 2025

### 5.4 Climate Emergency implications

Increasing the proportion of journeys made by active travel - which produces no, or minimal carbon emissions - is an important part of the council's strategy for working towards a 'climate ready' net zero city. There are also secondary benefits with improved connections, providing safer active travel options and improved health and wellbeing.

Signed: Phil Ball, Sustainability Officer, Ext: 372246

Dated: 13 June 2025

### 5.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

## **6. Background information and other papers:**

N/A

## **7. Summary of appendices:**

Appendix A – Indicative Projects list

## **8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?**

No

## **9. Is this a “key decision”? If so, why?**

Yes - 'Connecting Leicester Phased Programme'. Capital expenditure of over £1m is to be committed on a scheme which is not currently included within the capital programme.