

# Westmorland and Furness Council

<b>Report Title:</b>	Local Sustainable Travel and Transport Fund
<b>Meeting:</b>	South Lakeland Locality Board
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	25 January 2024
<b>Report Author:</b>	Austin Shields, Senior Manager – Sustainable Transport
<b>Lead Cabinet Member(s):</b>	Councillor Neil Hughes, Cabinet Member for Transport and Environmental Services
<b>Wards Affected?</b>	All in South Lakeland
<b>PUBLIC, PART EXEMPT OR FULLY EXEMPT</b>	Public
<b>List of Appendices (if any)</b>	Appendix 1 – list of recommended schemes to utilise the remaining balance of the Local Sustainable Travel and Transport Fund. Appendix 2 – Background Arnside to Grange Trail.

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report presents Members with a list of schemes which the South Lakeland Locality Board – Building Community Assets and Addressing Inequalities Working Group have recommended approving to utilise the remaining balance of the Local Sustainable Travel and Transport Fund allocation.

## 2. Recommendation

For the reasons set out in this report, it is recommended that South Lakeland Locality Board -

- 2.1 recommend that the Director of Thriving Places in consultation with the Chair of the Locality Board agrees the list of recommended schemes to utilise the remaining balance of the Local Sustainable Travel and Transport Fund as outlined in Appendix 1

## 3. Information: the Rationale and Evidence

- 3.1 At its meeting on 06 June 2023 the Council's Cabinet approved an allocation of £419,400 to South Lakeland Locality Board to utilise during the 2023/24 financial year for the Local Sustainable Travel and Transport Fund.
- 3.2 The Council's Constitution states that the remit of the South Lakeland Locality Board includes to "agree and keep under review the implementation of a one year programme of Local Sustainable Transport schemes for the area. Local Sustainable transport schemes could include footpaths and rights of way, cycling and walking improvements, school streets, community transport support." The Terms of Reference also include for the Locality Board "To advise and make recommendations to a grants panel for community bus grant

applications". At the Cabinet meeting on 11 July 2023, it was resolved that 'the relevant Director will agree with the Chair of the Locality Boards the relevant schemes, criteria, panels and / or working groups to distribute the Investment in Council Plan priority funding relating to the £900,000 for the Sustainable Transport Fund outlined in paragraph 3.10 of the June Cabinet report...' For transparency the Director of Thriving Places is bringing the list of proposed schemes before the South Lakeland Locality Board, in Appendix 1.

- 3.3 The funding delegation referred to in paragraph 3.1 above will help improve public health and the environment by reducing congestion, air pollution, carbon emissions and supporting healthier lifestyles.
- 3.4 Officers from the Council's Highways Delivery Team undertook Walk the Ward exercises with Members in Spring and Summer 2023. From these exercises a number of suggestions were submitted which could be delivered using the Local Sustainable Travel and Transport Fund. In addition, officers from the Council's Countryside Access, Sustainable Transport and Safe & Strong Communities teams are in receipt of previous requests from Members and local communities which could also be delivered using the Fund.
- 3.5 The initial criteria was developed and agreed by the Director of Thriving Places and Chair of Locality Board. A long list of 60 potential schemes was assessed by officers using the agreed scoring and rating. Each entry was assigned a feasibility score and rating. This grading assessed if the funding could be committed to deliver the scheme by 31 March 2024 and also considered other elements including alignment to Council Plan priorities, any land ownership issues that would require resolution, the estimated cost of the scheme and any environmental implications.
- 3.6 On 12 September 2023 the long list was presented to Members of the South Lakeland Locality Board - Building Community Assets and Addressing Inequalities Working Group. At the conclusion of this meeting Members agreed that the group would reconvene on 27 September 2023 to further refine the list of schemes. At the meeting on 27 September 2023, Members of the Working Group endorsed the first phase of schemes which were endorsed by the South Lakeland Locality Board on 18 October 2023. The Director of Thriving Places subsequently agreed with the Chair of the Locality Board the first phase of relevant schemes to receive investment and decisions were recorded in an Officer Delegated Decision Record dated 30 November 2023 and published. The estimated cost of the first phase of schemes was £130,200 leaving a remaining balance of £289,200.
- 3.7 On 06 December 2023 a long list of 73 potential schemes was presented to Members of the South Lakeland Locality Board - Building Community Assets and Addressing Inequalities Working Group. Following discussions and advice from officers of the relevant teams Members of the Working Group endorsed the second phase of schemes as presented in appendix 1 of this report and are recommending that these are also endorsed by South Lakeland Locality Board.

- 3.8 The list of schemes presented in appendix 1 of this report includes an application from the Morecambe Bay Partnership for the Arnside to Grange Trail. This application was initially submitted to the Council's Partnership Fund however did not receive any funding through this mechanism. Officers from the Council's Climate and Natural Environment Team have asked if this application can be considered for the Local Sustainable Travel and Transport Fund. Background information from the applicant regarding the Arnside to Grange Trail is at appendix 2 of this report.
- 3.9 The total estimated cost of the schemes listed in appendix 1 of this report is £241,999. This will leave a balance of £47,201 remaining from the original allocation £419,400 to the South Lakeland Locality Board. It is recommended that the remaining balance is set aside as a contingency to reflect any potential cost increases in delivering the schemes.
- 3.10 The Director of Thriving Places will agree with the Chair of the Locality Board all the relevant schemes to receive investment as outlined in appendix 1 and the decisions will be recorded in an Officer Delegated Decision Record and published.

#### **4. Link to Council Plan Priorities: ( People, Climate, Communities, Economy and Culture, Customers, Workforce)**

- Supporting active, healthy happy lives for young and old.
- Supporting people in need and reducing inequality.
- Providing leadership in the drive to become carbon net zero.
- Confident, empowered, resilient communities.
- Sustainable, inclusive, economic growth

#### **5. Consultation Outcomes (with services, ward councillors & public consultation where required)**

- 5.1 Consultation has been undertaken with Members via the South Lakeland Locality Board – Building Community Assets and Addressing Inequalities Working Group who approved the list of schemes detailed in this report.

#### **6. Alternative Options Considered**

- 6.1 To utilise the funding for other schemes. The schemes presented are those which officers have indicated are the most feasible to deliver within the finite funding available, the timescale for utilising the funding and remit of the Local Sustainable Travel and Transport Fund.
- 6.2 Not to utilise the funding. This will present a reputational risk for the Board as the funding has already been allocated for the 2023/24 financial year.

## **7. Financial Implications and risk**

- 7.1 The recommendation of this paper is that the the Locality Board approves the schemes set out in Appendix 1 totalling £241,999.
- 7.2 This is to be funded from the £419,400 allocated to South Lakeland Locality Board for a Local Sustainable and Transport Fund to be utilised in 2023/24 (Cabinet 6 June 2023). The South Lakeland Locality Board – Buidling Community Assets and Addressing Inequalities Working Group are recommending the Locality Board approves the schemes set out in Appendix 1 totalling £241,999. This along with the earlier allocation of £130,200 (18<sup>th</sup> October 2023) totals £372,199 leaving £47,201 available to use as a contingency sum

(P Cameron 22.12.23)

## **8. Legal & Governance Implications**

8.1 The Locality Board Terms of Reference (Part 2 Section 14 Constitution) include provision: 8.1.1 to allocate discretionary budgets, make decisions and develop activities in supporting locality working, projects and activities within the terms of any scheme that may be developed by the Cabinet 8.1.2 to agree and keep under review the implementation of a one year programme of Local Sustainable Transport schemes for the area. Local Sustainable transport schemes could include footpaths and rights of way, cycling and walking improvements, school streets, community transport support.

8.2 Cabinet resolved on 11 July 2023 that the relevant Director would agree with the Chair of the Locality Boards the relevant schemes, criteria, panels and/ or working groups to distribute the Investment in Council Plan priority funding relating to the £900,000 for the Sustainable Transport Fund outlined in paragraph 3.10 of the June Cabinet report. It is proposed that the Director of Thriving Places, under the delegation from Cabinet on 11 July 2023, will make the decision to agree the schemes set out in Appendix 1. For transparency purposes this report brings the proposed list of schemes in Appendix 1 before members of the Locality Board

## **9. Human Resources Implications**

- 9.1 There are no direct Human Resources Team implications.

(L Robb 22.12.23)

## **10. Equality & Diversity Implications** (including the public sector equality duty, Armed Forces Families, Care Leavers and Health inequalities implications)

- 10.1 There are no equality and diversity implications at this time however these will be considered in delivering the approved schemes.

**11. Background Information & Sources (used in preparation of this Report)**

11.1 Not applicable.