

Chichester District Council

CABINET

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Business Rates Pool Grant Bid

Contacts

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1. Recommendation

- 1.1 That Cabinet approves the spend of the Business Rates Pool grant award as detailed in Appendix 2 and that authority be delegated to the Director of Planning and Environment (following consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Environment and Chichester Contract Services) to vary the spend with minor amendments where necessary.**

2. Background

- 2.1 Under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 all English local authorities have statutory air quality duties known as Local Air Quality Management (LAQM). Under LAQM the Council declared, by Order, four Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) where air quality failed a UK health based air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) related to vehicle emissions.
- 2.2 Where AQMAs are declared then authorities are statutorily obliged to produce an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) detailing how they will tackle the air quality issues. Priorities 2 and 4 of the Council's current AQAP are that we will 'strengthen partnerships', 'seek funds' and 'encourage and foster behavioural change/modal shift'. As such the Council was a successful party to a joint authority bid to the West Sussex Business Rate Pool (BRP) for grant funding to be spent on cycling related projects in 2019. Approval to spend the award was the subject of a Cabinet resolution (5 March 2019) and details of the projects are included in Appendix 1.
- 2.3 The Council was subsequently invited to bid for a further round of £70K of BRP monies in February 2020. Arun District Council (ADC), who lead the bid partners, indicate that the bid was successful and that the Council has been awarded a further £61,000.

3. Outcomes to be Achieved

- 3.1 The projects expand and strengthen strategies in the emerging Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and themes in the AQAP helping to increase cycling in Chichester District and encourage modal-shift so reducing emissions and helping to improve air quality.
- 3.2 The Council will report progress to Arun District Council at six monthly intervals on the project spend and success will be measured through project completion and through increased rates of cycling.

4. Proposal

- 4.1 The proposal is to receive and spend the secured grant funding of £61,000.
- 4.2 The proposed grant spend is associated with five projects as detailed in Appendix 2. Nevertheless, it is confirmed by ADC that there is some flexibility in the spend provided that it is spent on cycling related projects.

5. Alternatives Considered

- 5.1 The alternative would be not to receive and spend the monies and so not realise the benefits inherent in the proposed projects. No other alternatives have been considered.

6. Resource and Legal Implications

- 6.1 The work will be delivered within existing staffing resources utilising the agreed project funding.

7. Consultation

- 7.1 The Environment Panel considered the grant award at its meeting on 16 December 2020 and resolved:
 - 1) That the Environment Panel notes the Council's award of a Business Rates Pool Grant award of £70,000 to support cycling projects as identified in Appendix 2.
 - 2) That the Environment Panel recommend to Cabinet that approval be given to spend the Business Rates Pool grant award as detailed in Appendix 2 and that authority be delegated to the Director of Planning and Environment (following consultation with the Cabinet member for the Environment and Chichester Contract Services) to vary the spend with minor amendments where necessary.
- 7.2 At the time of taking the item to Environment Panel the indication was that the award was £70,000. The award is now confirmed as £61,000 and so flexibility is built into the recommendation to allow for variation in the spend given the smaller award.
- 7.3 No wider consultation has been carried out for this work. The Chichester and District Cycle Forum will be made aware following this Cabinet decision.

8. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

- 8.1 Where grant monies are to be spent in partnership with the SDNPA they will be subject to agreements binding the recipient to spending the monies on the intended project only. Regular updates and final project out-turn reports will be required such that the Council has oversight of the spend.
- 8.2 The monies to be spent directly by the Council on consultancy for the delivery of the LCWIP will be subject to contract terms which will include periodic updates on progress towards delivery.

9. Other Implications

	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder		✓
Climate Change and Biodiversity: Encouraging cycling helps to foster a low carbon form of transport so contributing to tackling climate change.	✓	
Human Rights and Equality Impact		✓
Safeguarding and Early Help		✓
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		✓
Health and Wellbeing: Encouraging cycling helps to foster active travel, and an active lifestyle which have multiple physical and mental health benefits.	✓	

10. Appendices

- 10.1 Appendix 1: Business Rates Pool Cycling 2019 Award Cabinet approved project spend.
- 10.2 Appendix 2: Business Rates Pool Cycling 2020 project proposals.