

## Section A: Scheme Summary

<b>Name of scheme:</b>	<b>Active Travel Fund: Local Authority Capital Funding for 2021/22</b>
<b>Lead organisation:</b>	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
<b>Senior responsible officer:</b>	Caroline Farnham-Crossland, West Yorkshire Combined Authority
<b>Lead promoter contact:</b>	Kit Allwinter, West Yorkshire Combined Authority

<b>Applicable funding stream(s) – Grant or Loan:</b>	Grant
<b>Growth Fund Priority Area (if applicable):</b>	Not applicable

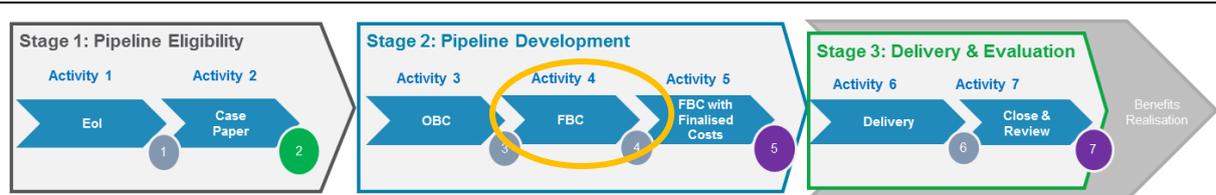
<b>Approvals to date:</b>	None
<b>Forecasted full approval date (decision point 4):</b>	22 September 2021
<b>Forecasted completion date (decision point 5):</b>	31 March 2023

<b>Total scheme cost (£):</b>	£12,361,310 (to be confirmed)
<b>Combined Authority funding (£):</b>	£12,361,310
<b>Total other public sector investment (£):</b>	£0
<b>Total other private sector investment (£):</b>	£0

<b>Is this a standalone project?</b>	No
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<b>Is this a programme?</b>	Yes. Tranche 1 has been approved and delivered, whilst Tranche 2 has been approved and is currently in delivery. This represents “Tranche 3” of the Active Travel Fund.
<b>Is this project part of an agreed programme?</b>	Yes

**Current Assurance Process Activity:**



**Scheme Description:**

On 9 May 2020 the government announced a new £250 million emergency active travel fund - the first stage of a £2 billion investment over the next five years, for walking and cycling in England. A further announcement confirmed that £225 million of this funding will be allocated to local authorities to reallocate road space to support safe walking and cycling and to help make sure the road, bus and rail networks are ready to respond to future increases in demand.

Across tranches 1 and 2 of the Active Travel Fund, West Yorkshire secured £12.566 million to fund highways infrastructure schemes, behaviour change measures and both temporary and permanent walking and cycling infrastructure improvements.

This next stage, Active Travel Fund: Local Authority Capital Funding for 2021/22 provides for another year of delivery of similar schemes, this time targeted at enabling modal shift from short car journeys and in areas of significant deprivation.

13 schemes have been submitted covering much of West Yorkshire, including two West Yorkshire-wide programmes. Schemes funded will include:

- Creating “active travel neighbourhoods” where measures including segregated cycle lanes on busier roads and local roads being closed to traffic, will enable more people to make local journeys on foot and bike, to shops, health services and workplaces in the area, as well reach cycle routes on main roads for destinations further afield.
- Measures to improve pedestrian access into urban centres, to schools and to employment destinations, enabling people to make safer journeys on foot.
- New nationally compliant cycling infrastructure to fill identified gaps in the region’s cycling network, including upgrading existing towpaths on three canals and making a temporary scheme (delivered through Tranche 1) permanent on the A660, Otley Road.

- Support for sustainable, active travel (cycling and walking) to school through implementation of “school streets” measures, including installation of cycle and scooter parking spaces at schools across West Yorkshire
- Increased levels of physical activity through everyday active travel leading to improved health, including interventions in communities in urban areas experiencing deprivation.

Overall, the programme will reduce car journeys and make it safer and more convenient to cycle and walk on local journeys to education, employment and other key destinations.

### Business Case Summary:

<b>Strategic Case</b>	<p>Active Travel Fund: Local Authority Capital Funding for 2021/22 will help the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and its partners achieve the strategic objectives of delivering a 21<sup>st</sup> century transport network, delivering inclusive growth and addressing the climate emergency through providing opportunity for people to make more journeys by bike or on foot.</p> <p>The 13 Interventions have been identified in line with updated statutory guidance published by government.</p> <p>Overall, the programme will play an important role in delivering the aims of the government’s “Gear Change” plan which seeks a step-change in cycling and walking, to transform their role in England’s transport system. The programme will encourage modal shift from private cars to active travel (cycling and walking) by making journeys on foot and by bike, safer and more convenient.</p> <p>The activities delivered will support the Combined Authority in responding to the climate emergency. Increased levels of walking and cycling are expected to play an important role in reducing carbon emissions, which are required for the region to meet its ambition to be net-zero carbon by 2038.</p> <p>The programme will also work towards achieving the changes in travel behaviour identified through the Carbon Emissions Reduction Pathway work.</p>
<b>Commercial Case</b>	<p>This programme was developed in partnership with partner councils with deliverability as a core criterion, and the bid included letters of support from political leaders to deliver the schemes included, as required by the statutory guidance.</p>
<b>Economic Case</b>	<p>The programme will deliver a series of interventions which will support West Yorkshire’s post Covid-19 recovery and contribute to the government’s aim to achieve a step-change in active travel (cycling and walking) seeing them play a key role in England’s transport system.</p>

	<p>Delivering infrastructure improvements designed to encourage more people to cycle, walk or use public transport will enable a series of health, clean growth and inclusive growth benefits to be realised. These include health benefits as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduced carbon emissions and improvements to air quality, as more people choose to travel on foot, by bike or public transport rather than by car</li> <li>• increased levels of physical activity through everyday cycling and walking leading to improved health</li> <li>• targeted health-focused cycle training based on GP prescribing for those with low levels of physical activity.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Financial Case</b></p>	<p>West Yorkshire’s anticipated allocation from Department for Transport is up to £12,361,310. The outcome of the bid is expected in October 2021.</p> <p>The funding will need to be committed by 31 March 2022, with activity delivered and reported on by March 2023.</p>
<p><b>Management Case</b></p>	<p>The programme includes 13 infrastructure schemes which will be delivered by our partner councils, with support from the Combined Authority where appropriate. This will build on activity that is currently being delivered.</p>