

North Yorkshire County Council

Business and Environmental Services Executive Members

23 March 2018

National Productivity Investment Fund – ‘Enabling Development and Business Growth in West Harrogate’

Report of the Assistant Director – Highways and Transportation

1.0 Purpose Of Report

- 1.1 To seek authorisation from the Executive Member for access, including highways, road and rail transport, public transport; broadband, mobile phones; public rights of way to accept £3.2 million funding from the Department for Transport for the successful ‘Enabling Development and Business Growth in West Harrogate’ bid.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF) was announced as part of the 2016 Autumn Statement. North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) received an allocation of £5.104 million in 2017. Subsequent to the allocation, on the 6 April 2017, the bidding round of NPIF for 2018/19 and 2019/20 was announced. Each Local Highways Authority (LHA) was invited to submit a maximum of two bids ranging between £2 million and £5 million, and by exception, larger projects requiring DfT funding above £5 million but no more than £10 million.
- 2.2 Members will recall the report dated 23 June 2017 seeking approval for the submission of two bids into the DfT NPIF competitive bidding process. Upon approval, the two bids listed below were submitted to the DfT:
- Northallerton Connections; and,
 - Enabling Development and Business Growth in West Harrogate.
- 2.3 NYCC received notification in October 2017 informing the authority that the £3.2 million bid for ‘Enabling development and Business Growth in West Harrogate’ scheme had been successful. However, the bid for ‘Northallerton Connections’ was unsuccessful.
- 2.4 The main elements proposed to be delivered as part of the successful bid are:
- Upgrades to selected junctions along the B6162 Otley Road;
 - Provision of an off-road cycle route along Otley Road between Cardale Park and the Price of Wales roundabout;
 - Provision of sustainable transport facilities at Cardale Park;
 - Maintenance and minor upgrades between the A61 near Buttersyke Bar and the housing and employment area to the west of Harrogate; and,
 - Upgrade of the A61/Burnbridge Lane junction, to a roundabout to address local safety and congestion issues at this location.

3.0 Finance

3.1 The successful bid submitted to DfT totalled £4.6 million. The table below outlines the sources of funding.

Source	£
DfT Money	£3.200M
Local Contribution	£0.427M
Third Party Contribution	£1.050M

3.2 As noted in the report to BES Executive Members in June 2017 There are implications associated with any future acceptance of a grant offer from DfT. These include the need to underwrite a local contribution in the order of 30% of the total scheme costs alongside the need to underwrite any cost increases or costs associated with a delay to the delivery of the projects.

3.3 A local contribution of 32% has been identified through several sources.

3.4 As part of the local contribution NYCC identified a cash contribution of £50k from the Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) surplus of £100k identified for sustainable transport measures. On the 15 December 2017 the Corporate Director, BES, in consultation with the BES Executive Members approved the use of the identified £50k contribution towards the NPIF project. As such it will have no direct impact on the available CPE budget.

3.5 NYCC will also be making an in kind £266k Local Contribution of NYCC staff time towards the delivery of the project. A further contribution of £11k has been identified from the Highway Maintenance element of the Capital Programme.

3.6 A further £100k NYCC Local Contribution from the Local Safety Scheme budget has been included

3.7 The following third party contributions have been identified through S106 funding and S278 works:

- £60k of S106 funds secured the new Police Station development
- £65k of S106 funds identified from developer Taylor Wimpey. The developer is on site and this money is due to be received by the County Council in autumn 2018.
- £800k of S278 funding has been identified from developer Taylor Wimpey, officers are currently working with the developer in scheduling the works, with an estimated start date of late 2018 early 2019 forecast.
- £100k of Local Contribution from Harrogate Borough Council. This Local Contribution has been confirmed as set out in a letter from Cllr Philip Ireland dated 29 June 2017.
- £25k from a probable S106 contribution from the Bluecoats Park development (still subject to final planning approval)

4.0 Grant acceptance and conditions

4.1 The grant terms and conditions outline that the funding will be paid over two financial years under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. The initial payment of the grant for the first quarter of 2018/19 will be issued in spring 2018.

4.2 Grant paid to a local authority under this determination may be used only for the purposes that a capital receipt may be used for in accordance with regulations made under section 11 of the Local Government Act 2003.

4.3 The Chief Executive and Chief Internal Auditor are required to sign and return to the team leader of the Local Transport Funding Team in the Department for Transport a declaration to be received no later than 30 September 2019, in the following terms:

“To the best of our knowledge and belief, and having carried out appropriate investigations and checks, in our opinion, in all significant respects, the conditions attached to Local Transport Capital Block Funding (National Productivity Investment Fund) Specific Grant Determination 2018/19 No 31/3222 have been complied with”.

- 4.4 If the authority fails to comply with any of the conditions and requirements of the above paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2 the Minster may:
- a) reduce, suspend or withhold grant; or
 - b) by notification in writing to the authority, require the repayment of the whole or any part of the grant.

5.0 Equalities Implications

- 5.1 Consideration has been given to the potential for any adverse equalities impacts arising from the recommendations of this report. It is the view of officers that the recommendations included in this report do not have an adverse impact on any of the protected characteristics identified in the Equalities Act 2010 and an EIA screening form is attached as Appendix A.
- 5.2 Where individual site designs are required for this project it is envisaged that they would be developed in line with current policy, which would consider the needs of those people with protected characteristics.

6.0 Legal Implications

- 6.1 Paragraph 3.6 identifies the local and third party contributions. These local contributions have been previously agreed. Members of the project team are working closely with developers in regards to the scheduled S278 works which form part of the project.
- 6.2 There is a commitment that should any costs overrun NYCC will underwrite these. However, officers made the bid flexible to minimise the possibility of any overspend.
- 6.3 Any overspend will be funded from the NYCC LTP Capital Programme.
- 6.4 The Assistant Chief Executive, Legal and Democratic Services has been consulted on and agrees with the recommendation to accept the funding.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Executive Member for access, including highways, road and rail transport, public transport; broadband, mobile phones; public rights of way, in consultation with the Corporate Director of Business and Environmental Services and the Corporate Director Strategic Resources, accept the National Productivity Investment Fund grant for the ‘Enabling Development and Business Growth in West Harrogate’ package.

BARRIE MASON
Assistant Director – Highways and Transportation

Authors of Report: Samantha Raine

Background documents: None

Initial equality impact assessment screening form (As of October 2015 this form replaces 'Record of decision not to carry out an EIA')			
This form records an equality screening process to determine the relevance of equality to a proposal, and a decision whether or not a full EIA would be appropriate or proportionate.			
Directorate	Business and Environmental Services		
Service area	Highways and Transportation		
Proposal being screened	National Productively Investment Fund grant acceptance.		
Officer(s) carrying out screening	Samantha Raine		
What are you proposing to do?	Implement a package of works in the west of Harrogate.		
Why are you proposing this? What are the desired outcomes?	To reduce congestion and enable growth in the west of Harrogate		
Does the proposal involve a significant commitment or removal of resources? Please give details.	No.		
Is there likely to be an adverse impact on people with any of the following protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or NYCC's additional agreed characteristics? As part of this assessment, please consider the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent is this service used by particular groups of people with protected characteristics? Does the proposal relate to functions that previous consultation has identified as important? Do different groups have different needs or experiences in the area the proposal relates to? If for any characteristic it is considered that there is likely to be a significant adverse impact or you have ticked 'Don't know/no info available', then a full EIA should be carried out where this is proportionate. You are advised to speak to your Equality rep for advice if you are in any doubt.			
Protected characteristic	Yes	No	Don't know/No info available
Age		✓	
Disability		✓	
Sex (Gender)		✓	
Race		✓	
Sexual orientation		✓	
Gender reassignment		✓	
Religion or belief		✓	
Pregnancy or maternity		✓	
Marriage or civil partnership		✓	
NYCC additional characteristic			
People in rural areas		✓	
People on a low income		✓	
Carer (unpaid family or friend)		✓	
Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known	No		

inequalities/probable impacts (e.g. disabled people's access to public transport)? Please give details.			
Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate? (e.g. partners, funding criteria, etc.). Do any of these organisations support people with protected characteristics? Please explain why you have reached this conclusion.	None		
Decision (Please tick one option)	EIA not relevant or proportionate:	✓	Continue to full EIA:
Reason for decision	<p>The report is asking for approval to accept grant funding, which brings a requirement to match funding from NYCC, HBC and third parties.</p> <p>The funding will be used to make highway improvements at selected sites in the west of Harrogate. The decision will bring general positive benefits to residents and visitors.</p> <p>Individual site design work will be undertaken in line with our policies and will consider the needs of people with protected characteristics, in particular those with mobility and access difficulties.</p> <p>Therefore there is no reason to consider that this decision will lead to any negative impact on any groups of people with protected characteristics.</p>		
Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)	<i>Barrie Mason</i>		
Date	15.03.2018		