

Report of the Assistant Director – Legal & Governance

Access Fund York Project and CITS Grant – Cover Report

Summary

1. This report and its annex outlines key elements in York's Access Fund Project (Annex 1) and identifies ways in which the work to be undertaken will enable better traffic flow, reduce pollution and support modal shift to sustainable forms of transport.

Background

2. In January 2017 the Government approved a £64 million package of local transport funding to encourage more people to walk or cycle to work. The funding will support local projects over three years from 2017 to 2020.
3. All English transport authorities (outside London) were invited to bid for the funding and York was one of 25 successful local authority bidders to receive a share of the £60 million Sustainable Travel Access Fund for 2017 to 2020. York's share is £1,312,000.
4. The funding will help iTravel York deliver a comprehensive and broad ranging programme of innovative schemes focused on employment centres, education facilities and the engagement of communities and target groups. This involves the use of cutting edge technology through 'app' dashboards, smart traffic lights and integration of sustainable travel behaviours into cultural behavioural norms in York.
5. The aim is to work in partnership with communities and workplace 'champions' to increase walking and cycling rates, effectively targeting not only those who commute to and from work, but hard to reach groups who are socially disadvantaged. Active travel improves health and wellbeing, builds confidence and improves access to employment. These benefits will reduce the demand on costly public health services, The

measures proposed proactively tackle the increasing problem of obesity in society with associated illnesses such as heart disease and diabetes.

6. The objective of iTravel York is to achieve an increase in walking and cycling by providing a holistic range of integrated revenue activities to support capital infrastructure schemes such as:
 - £4.5m Scarborough Bridge access development to open a major walking and cycling link to the York central railway station.
 - £2.5m investment in the upgrade of traffic signals including the provision of thermal imaging 'magic cameras' to be used on 30 city centre traffic light junctions to identify cyclists and change lights to green on detection of which £0.75m was apportioned to the bid.
 - £585k cycling and walking route schemes, 'Safe Routes' to school from LTP funding and public transport upgrades.
7. The programme is designed to embed cultural change towards sustainable travel in York and achieve the optimal benefits from the capital investment. It will also complement and enhance the major capital investments planned from 2017-2020 into walking and cycling infrastructure which will improve journey times for sustainable modes, improve safety and provide high quality links and places where alternatives to car become the main mode of travel.
8. Amongst other things, the Sustainable Travel Access Funding will enable CYC's iTravel York programme to continue to work with the City's business community and educational establishments to encourage the take-up of sustainable travel modes by its employees and students. The programme includes work-streams to support access to Apprenticeship schemes and to continue the 'Travel to Campus' project, working with all four of the City's higher education providers.
9. In addition CYC has won a £300k bid to the Department of Transport to try out new ways of managing traffic flows. The funding from the Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems grant (CITS) will be used to gather intelligence and data in York over a two year period, starting in April, based on the connectivity between vehicles and infrastructure
10. It will focus on the A59 corridor from the Park & Ride site to Holgate Bridge, and will use location data collected from vehicles monitored by INRIX Ltd.

11. By 2020, it is anticipated that 25% of vehicles will be 'connected' – which means they will be able to communicate with each other and their surroundings, including traffic signals and Urban Traffic Control Systems.
12. The data will help analyse what this means for traffic management in the city and what benefits it can bring for travellers. As yet there are not enough connected vehicles on the road to undertake tests so the £300k grant will allow CYC to use existing fleets of vehicles tracked by GPS to test what the effects of connected vehicles could be, and what opportunities they could offer.
13. CYC will use data from the millions of UK vehicles tracked by INRIX to test ways of controlling traffic. It is the first time in the UK that 'big data' has been used to control traffic signals. As part of the trial York will also test the actual vehicle to signal communications that connected vehicles will use to help set the UK standard for this type of technology.
14. The project aims to make traffic signals more efficient and free up road space that can be used to provide better, more reliable public transport. It will also give the Government useful data that will help other councils deliver this technology in the future.

Analysis

15. This report is for information only.

Council Plan

16. This report and its annex are linked to the Prosperous City for All and a Council that Listens to Residents elements of the Council Plan.

Risks and Implications

17. There are no risks or implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

Recommendation

18. Members are asked to note and comment on the information in this report and its annex.

Reason: To inform Members of Access Fund York 2017-2020 and the Cooperative Intelligent Transport System.

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Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Annexes

Annex 1 – Access Fund York 201-2020