

Portfolio Holder Decision

Cycle Rail Routes to Stations Grant Funding

Portfolio Holder	Deputy Leader
Date of decision	14 October 2022
	Signed

1. Decision taken

The Deputy Leader of the Council:

- Approves the entering into of a grant agreement with Sustrans for the Cycle Rail Routes to Stations Warwick project and delegates authority to the Strategic Director for Communities to enter into the grant agreement and any other necessary legal agreements to give effect to the project on terms and conditions acceptable to the Strategic Director for Resources.
- Approves the allocation of £0.2045 million grant funding from Cycle Rail to the existing A429 M40 J15 to A46/B4115 capital scheme to deliver cycle infrastructure on the A429 Coventry Road.

2. Reasons for decisions

- 2.1 The County Council has been allocated £0.2045 million from the Government's Cycle Rail Routes to Station Fund administered by Sustrans, subject to agreeing the grant conditions. The grant has been awarded to enhance a cycle route due to be constructed in 2023 on the A429 Coventry Road Warwick using funding from the Government's Getting Building Fund and internal funds.
- 2.2 Deputy Leader approval is required to enter into a grant agreement with Sustrans and to allocate the capital funding to the Coventry Road cycle scheme.
- 2.3 It is also requested that authority is delegated to the Strategic Director for Communities to enter into the grant agreement and any other legal agreements necessary to give effect to the project on terms and conditions acceptable to the Strategic Director for Resources.

3. Background information

- 3.1 In 2020 the County Council secured £1.9 million from the Getting Building Fund to deliver the Warwickshire Cycling Network Expansion Project and bring forward 7km of new or enhanced priority cycle routes. This included a new route on the A429 Coventry Road,

Warwick between the Spinney Hill roundabout, where the route would connect to the National Cycle Network Route 52 to Kenilworth, and the St Johns junction on the edge of Warwick town centre. The scheme was identified as a high priority by the 2018 member led cycling infrastructure Task and Finish Group. Design work on the scheme commenced in late 2020 and stakeholder and public engagement on the initial design took place in autumn 2021.

- 3.2 During 2021 Sustrans invited expressions of interest from local authorities in applying for a Cycle Rail Routes to Stations Grant for the purpose of improving cycle routes to National Rail railway stations and increasing rail passengers or helping existing passengers to switch from car use to cycle. The Coventry Road scheme connects with Warwick station as well as linking residential areas in north Warwick and the town centre and improving connections to the wider town cycle network. An expression of interest was submitted to Sustrans with the aim of securing funding for the purpose of enhancing the quality of the Coventry Road route and aligning the design with the Department for Transport Local Transport Note 1/20 (LTN 1/20), Cycle Infrastructure Design, which is a requirement of the funding.
- 3.3 In late 2021 Sustrans informed the Council of their intention to award £204,500 funding to the Coventry Road scheme, subject to assurances over the route design. A joint design review was subsequently carried out with Sustrans with enhancements made including improved junction treatments to assist the movement of cyclists past side junctions and providing additional crossing facilities to improve connections to the existing cycle network. Sustrans is satisfied that the scheme design now meets the Cycle Rail fund criteria and can award the funding subject to the grant agreement being signed.
- 3.4 The Council will invite input from stakeholders and the public on the revised scheme design and consult on the required legal orders during the autumn and subject to the feedback received, intends to construct the scheme in the first part of 2023.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1 Entering into a grant agreement with Sustrans will enable the County Council to utilise £0.2045 million for the Coventry Road scheme and deliver a higher quality scheme than would be possible without this funding. The current cost estimate for the scheme is £0.715 million and is funded by:
 - Cycle Rail Routes to Station - £0.2045 million
 - Getting Building Fund - £0.3075 million
 - Casualty Reduction - £0.15 million
 - Delegated Budget - £0.053 million
 - Total - £0.715 million
- 4.2 The agreement with Sustrans requires the grant to be committed by the end of March 2023 which is achievable within the current project programme. Should the project be delayed, for example due to receiving objections to legal orders or delays in construction, and the funding withdrawn it would be possible to descope the project to ensure costs remain within the available budget.
- 4.3 Any increase in costs above the current estimate would have to be met, however the cost estimate is based on a detailed understanding of the scheme design and includes allowances for contingency and inflation. Cost overruns could be funded from the overall Getting Building Fund (GBF) grant for the Warwickshire Cycling Network Expansion Project, however any additional GBF grant spent on the Coventry Road scheme would reduce the

funding available to deliver the remaining contracted project outputs and this would require agreement with the funding body to vary the project outputs, schemes to be descoped or alternative funding to be found.

5. Environmental implications

5.1 Transport is the single largest cause of carbon emissions in the UK. The Coventry Road cycle scheme will provide cycling infrastructure which will enable more journeys to be made by bicycle, thereby contributing to reduced carbon emissions as well as lower levels of congestion and improved air quality. The Cycle Rail funding will enhance the quality of the Coventry Road cycle route and maximise the environmental benefits of the scheme by attracting a higher volume of users and encouraging more people to make local journeys by bicycle in preference to private cars.

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Portfolio Holder	Councillor Peter Butlin Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property peterbutlin@warwickshire.gov.uk

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of background papers

None

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Peter Butlin

Corporate Board – Mark Ryder

Legal – Caroline Gutteridge

Finance – Andy Felton

Equality – Keira Rounsley

Democratic Services – Isabelle Moorhouse

Councillors – Warwick, Boad, Philipps and Redford

Local Member(s): Cllr Jackie D’Arcy, Cllr John Holland, Cllr Parminder Singh Birdi