

**Department for Transport Bikeability Funding
Individual Cabinet Member Decision
Report of Head of Planning Services**

PURPOSE OF REPORT				
To seek approval for the acceptance of £15,000 of grant funding offered by the Department for Transport to enable us to offer Bikeability training.				
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Referral from Cabinet Member
Date Included in Forward Plan				
This report is public				

RECOMMENDATION

- (1) **To accept the offer of DfT funding**
- (2) **That the Head of Financial Services be authorised to update the 2009/10 General Fund Revenue Budget accordingly (grossing up both income and expenditure)**

1.0 Introduction

1.1 In February 2009 the Cycling Demonstration Town (CDT) Team submitted a bid to Department for Transport for a Local Authority Cycle Training Grant. In March we received a letter informing us that our bid had been successful and awarding us £15,000. We are now awaiting a formal funding agreement.

2.0 Proposal Details

2.1 We propose to offer 375 additional Bikeability places up to level 2 of the National Standard, with a proportion of these to be targeted at schools within deprived areas.

2.2 Bikeability is the new cycling proficiency (see www.bikeability.org.uk). Currently we offer this training to years 5 – 7 to all local schools involved in the Bike It project (presently 23 schools). This training is provided by local training provider Pedal Power, and paid for from the CDT budget.

2.3 We anticipate that by the end of the school year 2008/9 around 1000 pupils will have received Bikeability training locally, in the last three years. This additional funding will enable us to offer this valuable training to even more pupils locally, and possibly via local youth organisations also. This training increases pupils awareness, confidence and safety when cycling in today's traffic and is an essential life skill.

2.4 We intend to seek accreditation to offer Bikeability as the City Council using our national standard accredited cycling instructors. There are no costs involved in gaining this accreditation. This process is currently underway. If for some reason we do not gain accreditation then we will negotiate with another training provider to offer this training on our behalf.

2.5 The project will be managed by the Cycling Project Co-ordinator and the Sustrans Bike It Officer.

3.0 Details of Consultation

3.1 Internal only within the CDT Team.

4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

4.1 Accept the funding offer to provide an additional 375 Bikeability places. Offering Bikeability training is an essential part of the Celebrating Cycling project. The grant will be paid in arrears and funding paid on proof of training. The project will be closely monitored to ensure that the training being provided is of a good standard and that we are meeting any targets set.

4.2 Do not accept the offer of funding, and continue to only offer Bikeability funding at similar levels to previous years, approximately 300 – 350 places per year.

5.0 Officer Preferred Option (and comments)

5.1 To accept the offer of DfT funding to provide additional Bikeability training.

6.0 Conclusion

6.1 This additional funding will help the CDT team and Bike It Officer increase cycling levels in the district by providing national standard training to children to make them safer and more confident cyclists.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

Getting more people cycling is an action under the Environment section in the Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership Sustainable Community Strategy (Priority 3: Promote and enhance sustainable forms of transport and reduce private car use in urban areas throughout the district.

Implementation of the CDT Programme is also mentioned in the 2008/9 Corporate Plan.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT (including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be nil impact on Council funds as all training costs will be met by the grant. The Council's General Fund Revenue Budget for 2009/10 will be updated accordingly once formal approval and acceptance of the grant funding has been evidenced.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The S151 Officer has been consulted and has no comments to add.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring officer has been consulted and has no comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Contact Officer: Rachel Scott

Telephone: 01524 582392

E-mail: rscott@lancaster.gov.uk

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