

About the Emergency Active Travel Fund

To help local authorities to restart local transport as part of the Government's Covid-19 recovery roadmap, the Department for Transport (DfT) announced a £250 million Emergency Active Travel Fund.

The key aims of the funding are to:

- Implement measures to create an environment safer for both walking and cycling
- Replace public transport journeys with cycling
- Avoid public transport overcrowding
- Deliver health, environmental and congestion benefits

The types of measures that the DfT require local authorities to consider include:

- Swift and meaningful plans to reallocate road space to cyclists and pedestrians;
- Schemes that do not alter the status quo on the road will not be funded;
- Cycling schemes (temporary and permanent) must include segregation or point closures;
- Can be temporary low-cost schemes or permanent schemes with a short lead time;

The £250million is being released to local authorities in two tranches. Tranche 1 is for temporary projects during the Covid-19 pandemic and tranche 2 is for longer-term projects.

Tranche 1 funding

On 25 June 2020, DfT confirmed that we had been awarded £227,000 to implement short-term measures to encourage walking and cycling.

We have worked with local communities to identify potential schemes. While some schemes have the potential to become permanent, most are either temporary measures or experimental.

The following schemes have been progressed so far:

- Salisbury Cycleways – Brown Street and Exeter Street
- Winsley to Bradford on Avon Cycle/footway
- A420 Chippenham to Bumpers Farm Cycleway
- A361 Hilperton Road, Trowbridge - Cycleway
- Monkton Hill, Chippenham

Tranche 2 funding

The Department for Transport invited us to bid for further funding for permanent measures to promote active travel. They have made it clear that they will only fund areas which are ambitious in their plans and look to reallocate road space in urban areas to provide safer spaces for people who are cycling, i.e. physical segregation.

Our bid to DfT incorporated the following schemes:

- A420 Bristol Road and Lowden Hill, Chippenham
- Downton Road Hospital Path, Salisbury
- People Friendly Streets, Salisbury
- Hilperton (Trowbridge) to Melksham via Semington
- Easton Lane, cycle link between Chippenham and Corsham

On 13 November 2020, DfT confirmed that we had been awarded a conditional allocation of £681,000.

Consultation

Prior to the conditional award of funding for Tranche 2 schemes, the council consulted with its Community Area Transport Groups (CATGs), which are made of local members and also members from town and parish councils.

The council will shortly be consulting all key stakeholders on Tranche 1 and Tranche 2¹ schemes, looking for broad support, and making changes to take account of local feedback.

The aim will be to:

- successfully engage with stakeholders affected by or interested in the schemes
- encourage involvement from stakeholders and build strong open relationships
- understand and consider stakeholder concerns, issues and suggestions

We will achieve that by:

- identifying stakeholders that may be affected by or interested in the scheme
- communicating the consultation through a variety of channels to reach as many stakeholders as possible
- being open about the next steps of scheme development
- considering honestly and fairly the suggestions received from stakeholders

Stakeholders will include, but not be limited to, local residents, local businesses (where they are directly impacted by the scheme) emergency services, bus operators, local MPs, ward councillors and town and parish councils.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are unable to hold any face-to-face consultation events, so the online consultation will be promoted through the following channels:

- On the Wiltshire Council website
- In the local broadcast and media, via a press release issued by Wiltshire Council

¹ Salisbury People Friendly Streets consultation already under way as part of Experimental Traffic Regulation Order

- On the council's social media channels, which are currently followed by around 39,000 people
- The council's email marketing channels, which are sent to more than 23,000 people and businesses in Wiltshire
- Email updates to all Wiltshire Council members and parish councils

We will:

- Assess the level of support for schemes
- Use the comments and concerns raised during the consultation to help modify plans where necessary