
Title: Consolidated Active Travel Fund - Revenue Proposal
Report of: Tobyn Hughes, Director of Transport
Portfolio: Transport

Report Summary

The Consolidated Active Travel Fund (CATF) has replaced and consolidated Active Travel England's (ATE's) Active Travel Fund (capital) and Capability Fund (revenue). This revenue grant enables Local Transport Authorities to enable walking, wheeling and cycling in their areas.

The purpose of this report is to request the Chief Executive, in line with agreed delegations, approve, allocate and agree Grant Funding Agreements (GFA) totalling £1,627,020 of revenue funding as provided by the Consolidated Active Travel Fund. The report and its recommendations were supported at the Technical Officers Group meeting of 16 June 2025 and Finance and Investment Board on 7 July 2025.

The recently published Mayor's Local Transport Plan centres around five key themes, this investment transcends four of the five themes in providing support to deliver high quality infrastructure schemes, improving safety of the network and encouraging an uptake in active travel delivering better health outcomes.

Recommendations

The Chief Executive is recommended to approve:

1. £1,627,020 of Consolidated Active Travel Fund (Revenue) funding across the seven local authorities and the North East Combined Authority.
2. Enable the payment of funding and the establishment of Grant Funding Agreements with the seven constituent North East CA Local Authorities)

Following approval, GFAs will be provided to the seven Local Authorities for signing and sealing. The GFA will then be provided to the Statutory Officer for signature prior to sealing. Any regional propositions subject to procurement will be returned for decision making in accordance with the Constitution.

A. Context

1. Background

- 1.1 In March 2025, £1,627,020 of revenue funding to be spent by September 2026, was allocated to the North East region by Active Travel England (ATE) through Consolidated Active Travel Fund.
- 1.2 The level of funding is dictated by the region's prescribed capability rating and is intended to increase resources to deliver infrastructure plans and deliver community-based engagement that increases the proportion of people walking, wheeling and cycling in line with ATE's objectives.

2. Current position

- 2.1 Calls for funding were invited from all seven eligible Local Authorities with an assessment undertaken to ensure that the propositions were eligible in line with grant conditions. Owing to overprogramming proportionate reductions were undertaken to all categories to bring spending in line with the available budget.

B. Impact on North East Combined Authority Objectives

The use of CATF revenue will support the region in delivering on the ambition to improve and promote active travel as described in the Portfolio Plans agreed by Cabinet in July 2024. Activity undertaken utilising CATF revenue funding will also impact the following objectives of the North East CA:

A Greener North East – active travel projects will be designed to ensure we have attractive and safe routes to walk, wheel and cycle on. The delivery of training will support communities instilling confidence and awareness to make such journeys.

A Connected North East – Active travel projects will improve connections within and between communities across the region. The regional Design Review panel, facilitated by Capability Funding will ensure we deliver the highest quality improvements.

A successful North East: Projects will recognise the importance of places and spaces to the culture and success of the North East with a range of public realm improvements supported, events in the community and coastal and rural connections.

C. Key risks

The key risk associated with this decision is ensuring expenditure within timescales afforded by the CATF Revenue Fund. In order to mitigate this risk, the North East CA will work collaboratively with Local Authorities to monitor progress against timescales. Delivery of activity supported by Capability Funding will be subject to a governance structure that supports the identification and early warning signs of potential delay. Significant delays will be escalated to the Active Travel sub-group and the Strategic Heads of Transport group for consideration of remedial actions to ensure the project is delivered on time.

D. Financial and other resources implications

The table included below shows the forecast expenditure of CATF Revenue Funding:

	2025/26	2026/27	Total
Revenue	£813,510	£813,510	£1,627,020
Costs			
Total	£813,510	£813,510	£1,627,020

The profile shows an estimated 50% of revenue grant expenditure in 2025/26 with the remaining 50% in 2026/27 by the September 2026 deadline. This will be fully qualified in Grant Funding Agreement forecasts upon agreement with each local authority and thereafter monitored in line with project assurance. CATF has been received within the North East CAs accounts, provided as section 31 grant.

Funding is proposed to be apportioned to Local Authorities via Grant Funding Agreements in line with the below, following the submission of Local Authority proposals for expenditure:

Local Authority	CATF Revenue Allocation
Durham	£125,000
Gateshead	£150,000
Newcastle	£135,000
Northumberland	£175,000
North Tyneside	£161,000
South Tyneside	£120,000
Sunderland	£165,000
Regional	£596,020
Total	£1,627,020

E. Legal implications

The Monitoring officer has been consulted and has no comments to add,

F. Equalities implications

The North East CA follows the [Public Sector Equality duty](#) and this report has due regard to the need to achieve the objectives set out under s149 of the Equality Act 2010. In June 2024 the North East CA adopted equality objectives to reflect the different roles of the Combined Authority as an employer, a commissioner and deliverer of services, and a civic leader.

G. Consultation and engagement

Throughout the development of the Active Travel strategy significant consultation took place with a range of stakeholders to define the priorities for investment.

The investment proposal is fully aligned with delivering the Active Travel Strategy which was reaffirmed in the Mayor's Local Transport Plan at the March 2025 Cabinet.

All local authorities have been engaged and have submitted their requests for funding via the Active Travel sub-group. Proposals within this report have been considered by Heads of Transport, Technical Officers Group and Finance and Investment Board.

H. Appendices

None

I. Background papers

The Active Travel Strategy is available on the North East Combined Authority website [Active Travel Strategy \(northeast-ca.gov.uk\)](#)

J. Contact officers

Jonathan Bailes, Head of Transport Programmes, jonathan.bailes@northeast-ca.gov.uk

K. Glossary

ATE – Active Travel England

GFA – Grant Funding Agreement

North East CA – North East Combined Authority

L. Sign-off

1) Cabinet Member: Yes	2) Director/Head of Service: Yes	3) Director of Finance and Investment: Yes	4) Monitoring Officer: Yes
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