

Title: Active Travel Fund Tranche 5 – NCN14 Crossings Westoe Road / Erskine Road
Report of: Tobyn Hughes, Director of Transport
Portfolio: Transport

Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to approve the NCN14 Crossings Westoe Road / Erskine Road project, which is funded through the Active Travel Fund Tranche 5 (ATF5) programme, with a grant award of £127,463, and to agree to establish a Grant Funding Agreement (GFA) with South Tyneside Council for scheme delivery.

The project sits within the ATF5 programme which was endorsed by the North East Combined Authority (North East CA) Finance and Investment Board in February 2025. It is recommended that the scheme is approved via the delegation provided to the Head of Paid Service at the North East CA Cabinet meeting held in December 2025, to award or sign a grant offer up to a value of £5m (HPS 16).

Recommendations

The Chief Executive is recommended to:

- a. Approve the South Tyneside Council NCN14 Crossings Westoe Road / Erskine Road project which has a total project value of £169,463.
- b. Agree to establish a GFA with South Tyneside Council, enabling the payment of ATF5 grant funding of £127,463.

A. Summary of Investment Proposal (Context)

Project Outline	
Funding Source	Active Travel Fund Tranche 5 (ATF5)
Proposal Name	NCN14 Crossings Westoe Road / Erskine Road
Lead Organisation	South Tyneside Council
Delivery Areas	South Tyneside
Start Date	02/02/2026
Financial End Date	27/03/2026
Practical completion date (date by which all outputs will be achieved)	27/03/2026
Total Project Value	£169,463
Grant Amount Requested	£127,463
Budget Implications	The requested grant can be met within the overall ATF5 capital budget.

1. Background

- 1.1 In November 2024, North East CA was informed by Active Travel England (ATE) that the region was allocated £2,352,145 through the Active Travel Fund Tranche 5. Following this notification, North East CA were invited to submit a bid, up to this value, for ATE approval. In February 2025, a programme of six schemes was presented and endorsed by Finance and Investment Board in advance of the submission to ATE.

- 1.2 Each scheme within Active Travel Fund Tranche 5 has been individually developed, with designs reviewed and endorsed through the region's Design Review Panel (DRP). Following DRP endorsement a final submission to ATE is required for agreement.
- 1.3 This paper confirms that all processes and assurance for the NCN14 Crossings Westoe Road / Erskine Road scheme has been successfully completed including ATEs agreement and recommends that the scheme is approved and a GFA is signed for scheme delivery.

2. The Investment Proposal

2.1 Overview of Project

- 2.1.1 This project will deliver a Toucan crossing on Westoe Road, to the south of the junction with Erskine Road in South Shields. The crossing will link two sections of National Cycle Network Route 14 (NCN14) which run perpendicular to Westoe Road, replacing a current uncontrolled crossing facility.
- 2.1.2 The provision of this crossing facility will improve the connectivity and safety on both the NCN14 and the wider network on Westoe Road, which in turn should lead to an increase in active travel use.
- 2.1.3 The total project cost is £169,463, and £127,463 of ATF5 grant is requested to deliver the scheme, with the residual £42,000 provided in match funding by South Tyneside Council.

2.2 Outputs and Outcomes

Outputs	2026/27	Total
New Toucan crossing	1	1

Description of Outcomes	Timeframe for achievement	Total
Increase in active travel use in the vicinity of the scheme	1 year post completion	Increase from baseline (as identified in Monitoring and Evaluation)

2.3 Timetable for Implementation

Milestone	Forecast Date
Mobilisation	02/02/2026
Construction start	19/02/2026
Project completion	27/03/2026

2.4 Evaluation and Appraisal

- 2.4.1 Evaluation will be undertaken by South Tyneside Council, a monitoring and evaluation plan has been produced for inclusion within the grant funding agreement.
- 2.4.2 The scheme design was reviewed through the region's Design Review Panel, which confirmed no critical issues are present with regard to the scheme's design. The scheme has been assured and confirmed to offer value for money.

B. Potential Impact on North East Combined Authority Objectives

The Mayor's Local Transport Plan and its associated Delivery Plan place a key focus on delivering a joined-up walking and cycling network and improving the safety of women and girls, and the delivery

of the ATF5 programme will contribute to both of these objectives. The proposals set out within this report directly contribute towards achieving these aims, and in turn, support the North East Combined Authority corporate objectives, in particular, delivering a North East we are proud to call home.

The benefits that will be realised through the delivery of the ATF5 funded scheme described in this report will improve the connectivity, safety and active travel provision within South Tyneside, which will lead to more people choosing to travel sustainably.

C. Key risks

The key risk associated with this report is the ability for scheme promoters to defray ATF5 capital expenditure within the overall ATF5 programme timescales required by ATE, i.e. March 2027. Approval and agreement of the proposal outlined within this report aid in the delivery of the programme within the required timescales.

D. Financial and other resources implications

The financial profile for the scheme is outline below, funded from the ATF5 capital programme.

Funding Source	2025/26	2026/2027	Total
ATF5	£50,000	£77,463	£127,463
Match Funding	£42,000	-	£42,000
TOTAL	£92,000	£77,463	£169,463

Status of match funding:

No match funding is required for ATF5, however South Tyneside Council are contributing an additional £42,000 towards the delivery of the scheme.

Funding availability:

The funding which has been identified in this report is fully allocated and previously been committed within the ATF5 programme approved at Finance and Investment Board in February 2025.

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. This project will improve accessibility on this corridor for those walking, wheeling and cycling.

G. Consultation and engagement

The ATF5 programme including the NCN14 Crossings Westoe Road / Erskine Road project have been consulted on and considered through Heads of Transport of the seven constituent local authorities. The programme was endorsed by Finance and Investment Board in February 2025.

South Tyneside Council have undertaken formal consultation on the scheme and no objections or representations were received during this period.

Within the GFA, several clauses are included relating to publicity and communications. In addition, scheme promoters are issued with the North East CA's communication guidelines which assists in

the creation of impactful communications which represent the North East CA in relevant and relatable ways and fairly reflect our role as a funder.

H. Appendices

None.

I. Background papers

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J. Contact officers

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K. Glossary

ATE – Active Travel England
ATF5 – Active Travel Fund Tranche 5
DRP – Design Review Panel
GFA – Grant Funding Agreement
NCN – National Cycle Network
North East CA – North East Combined Authority

L. Consultee

Cabinet Member:	Director/Head of Service:	Director of Finance and Investment:	Monitoring Officer:
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes