

Welsh Government Transport Related Grants 2017-18

1. Background

Invitations were received from Welsh Government on 19th January 2017 to submit bids for funding for the 2017-18 financial year for the following –

Local Transport Fund

Guidance notes accompanied the invitation together with relevant application forms. A single combined bid document had to be returned and was submitted by 17th February 2017.

The bid had to be submitted in accordance with the Guidance issued by the Wales Government. The key requirements of the Guidance is set out as follows:-

Local Transport Fund

Bids must support Programme for Government priorities and take account of the newly introduced Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

The maximum grant from the Wales Government for any scheme is £1.5 million (excluding match funding) although informal discussions with Welsh Government officers have suggested that a bid in excess of this maximum could be considered if fully justified with a confirmation that the scheme could still be delivered with funding less than the bid amount. The discussions also have indicated that there could be significant changes to the grant funding structure in the near future.

The maximum number of submissions from any Local Authority was 3 (this has reduced from five in 2014/15) and submissions must be ranked in priority order. Projects should be drawn from Local Transport Plan priorities.

Match funding is not essential but will score higher with match funding

Pre works schemes will be considered.

2. Proposed Bid

Local Transport Fund

Three schemes are to be included in the submission.

Cross Hands Economic Link Road (Priority 1)

The scheme is referenced as transformational scheme of regional importance in the Swansea Bay City Region Local Transport Plan and in the recently launched 'A strategic regeneration plan for Carmarthenshire 2015-2030 Transformations'.

The bid was based around access to employment opportunities, especially direct access to the Cross Hands East Strategic Employment Site. Phase 1 of the road was completed in Summer 2015, this improved access to the site from the North and to Ammanford. The

Council has also developed the Ammanford – Cross Hands Bus Corridor. Both projects provide important infrastructure and transportation links to help reduce levels of deprivation, relieve congestion on TENS network at the A48 Cross Hands Roundabout and enable access to mixed use development at Parc Emlyn which is a key Growth area within the Local Development Plan. A planning application for the second phase of development at this site is currently being determined.

The forecast total expenditure in 2017/18 is £2,650,000 including completion of remaining land acquisition, further design development, preparation of tender documentation for a construction contract and initial construction works. Total project cost is estimated at £12.305 million.

The funding bid for LTF is £2,000,000 with match and other secured funding of £650,000 from internal Capital budgets (including Quadrant receipts).

Active Travel (Walking and Cycling Linkages) (Priority 2)

Particular emphasis is placed on the sustainable element of bids following the enactment of the Active Travel Bill with all projects being assessed in relation to this aspect.

There are four separate elements within this overall project.

Llwybr Dyffryn Tywi Valley Path – This involves further development of detailed Business Case for a European grant funding bid following the success of an initial bid in 2016/17 together with design and construction of an initial phase linking to Abergwili Museum which is to be the subject of a refurbishment project supported by Heritage Lottery funding and includes direct reference to the Tywi Valley Path.

Total expenditure in 2017/18 - £1,805,000 with match funding from a number of sources including internal Capital budgets together with other contributions such as European grant funding.

Urban Connections – This involves a series of lengths of cycling linkages as set out below:-

Llanllwch – Alltynap – design development of a final phase of a route commenced in 2014/15 which will provide sustainable access to key employment site in Johnstown - £5,000.

B4303 Swiss Valley / Llethri Road – completion of construction of route to provide sustainable access to key employment sites - £50,000.

Glangwili Hospital Link – design and construction of works for a link to provide sustainable access to the services and employment site - £95,000. It is also proposed to undertake a further investigation to explore options for extending a link to the new terminus for the Gwili Railway.

Amman Valley Cycleway – completion of final remaining sections within Carmarthenshire of cross boundary scheme with Neath Port Talbot CBC to include comprehensive branding and signage along entire route - £50,000.

Carmarthen Branded Routes – design and construction of final section in vicinity of Yr Egin linking the Carmarthen Western Link Road with the wider Carmarthen Branded Routes network - £100,000.

Other linkages include for infrastructure within the wider Llangennech and Bynea areas together with other complementary expenditure funded by the Road Safety and Footway Improvement Programme and Developer contributions - £460,000.

Total expenditure in 2017/18 - £760,000 with match funding from internal Capital budgets (including Road Safety and Footway Improvement Programme) and Developer contributions.

School Transport Routes – design and construction of routes to improve safe links to schools and to encourage more sustainable travel. Improving road safety will help create a virtuous cycle where traffic can be reduced by making Walking & Cycling more attractive. Routes are currently being identified.

Total expenditure in 2017/18 - £30,000.

The overall total funding bid from LTF for Active Travel Projects is £1,949,000 with match and other secured funding of £856,000 from internal Capital budgets (Road Safety and Footway Improvement Programme) and external sources including Developer contributions.

Ammanford Economic Infrastructure (Priority 3)

The scheme proposed focuses on the area around Ammanford Town Centre and developing transport infrastructure that will support the wider economic regeneration aspirations of this area. In particular:

Wind Street Tirydail Lane junction

To upgrade existing signalised junction at the intersection between the A483 and A474 Ammanford to a new gyratory system.

Phase 2 Ammanford Distributor Road

Continuing to develop our longer term aspiration to construct Phase 2 which would see a new road linking Park Street Ammanford to the Trunk Road A483 at Tycroes via Pantyffynnon to form Phase 2 of the Ammanford Distributor Road.

Other projects that complement the ongoing Ammanford Economic Regeneration Masterplan such as the improvement of the access to Carregamman Car Park and associated pedestrian crossing upgrades have been completed in 2016/17.

Within the recently launched 'A strategic regeneration plan for Carmarthenshire 2015-2030 – Transformations' there is reference to the 'Ammanford Junction' which 'would relieve traffic pressures in the town and open up the wider Ammanford road network and town centre'.

The overall funding bid from LTF Funding is - £865,000 with match funding of £100,000 from internal Capital budgets and previous s106 contributions.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BID

	Grant funding (£'000s)	Match Funding (£'000s)	Total (£'000s)
Cross Hands ELR Phase 2 (Priority 1)	2,000	650	2,650
Active Travel (Walking & Cycling Linkages) (Priority 2)	1,949	856	2,805
Ammanford Economic Infrastructure (Priority 3)	865	100	965
TOTAL	4,814	1,606	6,420

DETAILS OF MATCH FUNDING

	Match Funding (£'000s)	Details of Match Funding
Local Transport Fund		
Cross Hands ELR Phase 2 (Priority 1)	650	Internal budgets (Capital Programme) - £75k Internal budgets (Quadrant receipts) - £150k Other contributions (including secured external funding) - £425k
Active Travel (Walking & Cycling Linkages) (Priority 2)	856	Internal budgets (Capital Programme and Road Safety & Footway Improvement Programme) - £525k Developer contributions - £50k Other contributions (including secured and unsecured external funding) - £281k
Ammanford Economic Infrastructure (Priority 3)	100	Internal budgets (Capital Programme) - £100k
TOTAL	1,606	

Endorsement of the proposed bid is sought.