

Welsh Government Transport Related Grants 2016-17

1. Background

Invitations were received from Welsh Government on 18th December 2015 to submit bids for funding for the 2016-17 financial year for the following –

Local Transport Fund Road Safety (Revenue and Capital) Safe Routes in the Communities

Guidance notes accompanied the invitation together with relevant application forms. A single combined bid document had to be returned and was submitted by 29th January 2016.

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

The maximum grant from the Wales Government for any scheme is £1.5 million (excluding match funding)

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

Road Safety Revenue

Applications for Road Safety Revenue funding should be based on the calculated amount for each Local Authority – this was £137,000 for Carmarthenshire County Council.

The bid should focus on four priority areas and a maximum of six initiatives will be supported to include Pass Plus Cymru, Motorcyclist training, Kerbcraft, National Cycle training.

No general road safety posts will be funded but staff costs will be met for specific projects.

General advertising and media campaigns would not be supported.

Road Safety Capital

All schemes must contribute to the targets in the Road Safety Framework.

Priority will be given to schemes targeted at sites or routes where there is evidence of collisions resulting in fatal or serious injuries.

Sites involving slight injuries or damage will only be considered if supported with police evidence.

Safe Routes in the Communities

Schemes should be drawn from routes identified to the Minister in Summer 2014.

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 expenditure in 2016/17 is £1,235,000 including land acquisition, further design development and the preparation of tender documentation for a Design & Construct contract. Total project cost is estimated at £12.305 million.

The funding bid for LTF is £985,000 with match funding of £250,000 from internal Capital budgets (including Quadrant receipts) and potential s106 contributions from the Parc Emlyn development.

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.

Towy Valley Transport Corridor – This involves further development of detailed Business Case for a European grant funding bid 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 Towy Valley Transport Corridor

Total expenditure in 2016/17 - £705,000 with match funding from a number of sources including internal Capital budgets (Quadrant receipts and complementary expenditure relating to the Abergwili Museum project) together with other contributions.

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 - £2,500.

A4138 Llangennech to Dafen – design and construction of further phase of a route commenced in 2015/16 to provide sustainable access to key employment sites - £210,000.

B4303 Swiss Valley / Llethri Road - design and construction of route to provide sustainable access to key employment sites - £210,000.

Glangwili Hospital Link – design and construction of works for a link to provide sustainable access to the services and employment site - £52,500. 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 - £37,500.

Pembrey Canal – £75,000 funding for design fees for project funded by Coastal Communities Lottery monies promoted by Sustrans. Design and construction to be undertaken by Carmarthenshire County Council.

Other linkages include for infrastructure within the wider Llangennech and Bynea areas and other complementary expenditure funded by the Road Safety and Footway Improvement Programme - £125,000.

Total expenditure in 2016/17 - £712,500 with match funding from internal Capital budgets (Road Safety and Footway Improvement Programme) and external sources including Coastal Communities funding.

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 2016/17 - £30,000.

The overall total funding bid from LTF for Active Travel Projects is £912,500 with match funding of £535,000 from internal Capital budgets (Road Safety and Footway Improvement Programme) and external sources including Coastal Communities funding as well as 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 Pantyfynnon to form Phase 2 of the Ammanford Distributor Road.

It is also proposed that we would be looking to continue the design and development of wider transport initiatives within the town that compliments the ongoing Ammanford Economic Regeneration Masterplan such as the improvement of the access to Carregamman Car Park and associated pedestrian crossing upgrades.

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 - £400,000 with match funding of £100,000 from internal Capital budgets and previous s106 contributions.

Road Safety Revenue

The bid includes submissions for 6 initiatives including the 4 priority areas – National Standards Cycle training, Kerbcraft, Pass Plus, and Motorcycle Training.

The bid submitted totals = £137,000. This is the maximum allocation permitted for Carmarthenshire County Council, as set out in the guidelines.

Details of the initiatives are –

Initiative 1 Pass Plus Cymru

Pass Plus is a practical training course aimed at new drivers to improve their skills and drive more safely.

Initiative 2 National Standards Cycle Training

On-road cycle training for primary school age children aimed to make trainees feel safer and capable of dealing with traffic.

Initiative 3 Kerbcraft

Kerbcraft teaches children aged from 5-7 how to be safer pedestrians to equip children with life skills.

Initiative 4i Motorcyclists Safety Initiatives

Courses for motorcyclists are designed to provide the knowledge and skills to deal with the initial management of a causality involved in a road traffic collision or any incident where injury is sustained. Courses will also be provided to teach enhanced rider skills.

Initiative 5 Older Drivers Programme

Training aimed for older drivers to keep them independently mobile, driving safely for longer. Modules aimed at driver re-training including 'Signage and infrastructure', 'Modern cars / eco-driving', 'Aging process / driving ability', 'Mitigation process / giving up your car', 'Making the Most of your Modern Car', 'Travelling with Grandchildren', and 'The Journey – Staying Legal'.

Initiative 6 Younger Drivers Programme

This aims to develop responsible driver/car-owners. The education course is suitable for pre-driver, learner, and newly qualified drivers. It is targeted mainly to Year 12s in 6th form and to students at tertiary/apprenticeship College.

Modules: -

Buying a Car – Knowing your Rights; Drink and Drugs Driving and Fitness to Drive; Speeding; In-car Safety, and, Driving for Work; First on Scene – Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service; Illegal Driving – Dyfed Powys Police Roads Policing Unit.

Additional modules: -

Moped Safety (for students who have opted for '2 wheels'); Travelling Other People's Children and Child Car-seat Awareness (for Child Care students); Safe Loads and Towing (for Construction and Agricultural students); Travelling Live Loads (for Animal Care and Equine Studies students); Customer Care.

Initiative No.		No. of Candidates	Bid (£)
1	PlasPlus Cymru	96	13,248
2	National Standards Cycle Training	674	28,308
3	Kerbcraft	1000	62,000
4 i.	Dragon Rider / Biker down	115	15,410
5	Older Drivers	120	6,000
6	Younger Drivers Programme	400	12,034

Road Safety Capital

The bid includes for the design and implementation of two schemes.

One of the schemes concentrates on route style treatments and will consist of reduced speed limits, improved warning signs and road markings, verge markers and high friction surfacing.

The other scheme concentrates on providing improved and safer crossing points, a controlled crossing, traffic calming measures and a shared use cyclepath that will connect to an existing path.

The proposed measures have been used successfully on previous Grant funded routes and provide exceptional value for money in respect to collision and casualty prevention which have helped the Authority achieve previous Welsh Government Casualty Reduction Targets.

The schemes aim to reduce the number of collisions as well as the severity of casualties, with particular emphasis being placed on:

- killed or seriously injured casualties
- on high risk and vulnerable groups.

The schemes also propose to control and reduce traffic speeds.

The bid includes for the design and implementation of the **A484 Carmarthen to Cenarth** route treatment scheme – expenditure of £225,900 with match funding of £25,100 from internal revenue budgets (Traffic Management and Accident Prevention).

The bid includes for the design and implementation of improved and safer crossing points on the **A4214/B4304 Llanelli** - expenditure of £216,000 with match funding of £24,000 from internal Revenue budgets,

Safe Routes in the Communities

Following a request for Expressions of Interest issued to schools in Autumn 2014 and an evaluation of the returns four projects have been identified as follows –

A project in Cwmamman area centred around Ysgol y Bedol.

Routes to and from this school were included in a schedule of such routes which was requested by the Minister in Summer 2014.

Total expenditure in 2016/17 - £190,000 including design, construction project management and monitoring and evaluation.

Funding from SRiTC - £180,000 with match funding of £10,000 from CCC internal capital funds.

A second project centred around the secondary school in **Whitland** has been progressed to an initial stage whereby a funding bid can be developed. Routes to and from this school were included in a schedule of such routes which was requested by the Minister in Summer 2014.

Initial consultation with key stakeholders including local Members, Town Council and other bodies has provided a broad support for the principles of the scheme.

Total expenditure in 2016/17 - £207,500 including design, construction project management and monitoring and evaluation.

Funding from SRiTC - £197,500 with match funding of £10,000 from CCC internal capital funds.

A third project in the **Pencader** area has been identified to improve links to Pencader County Primary School.

Total expenditure in 2016/17 - £180,000 including design, construction project management and monitoring and evaluation.

Funding from SRiTC - £170,000 with match funding of £10,000 from CCC internal capital funds.

A fourth project in the **Rhos / Saron** area has been identified to improve links to Saron County Primary School.

Total expenditure in 2016/17 - £185,000 including design, construction project management and monitoring and evaluation.

Funding from SRiTC - £175,000 with match funding of £10,000 from CCC internal capital funds.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BID

	Grant funding (£'000s)	Match Funding (£'000s)	Total (£'000s)
Local Transport Fund			
Cross Hands ELR Phase 2 (Priority 1)	985	250	1,235
Active Travel (Walking & Cycling Linkages) (Priority 2)	912.5	535	1,447.5
Ammanford Economic Infrastructure (Priority 3)	400	100	500
Road Safety Revenue	137	0	137
Road Safety Capital	441.9	49.1	491
Safe Routes in the Communities	722.5	40	762.5
TOTAL	3,598.9	974.1	4,573

DETAILS OF MATCH FUNDING

	Match Funding (£'000s)	Details of Match Funding
Local Transport Fund		
Cross Hands ELR Phase 2 (Priority 1)	250	Internal budgets (Capital Programme) - £50k Internal budgets (Quadrant receipts) - £100k Developer Contributions - £50k Other contributions - £50k
Active Travel (Walking & Cycling Linkages) (Priority 2)	535	Internal budgets (Capital Programme and Road Safety & Footway Improvement Programme) - £250k Internal budgets (Quadrant receipts) - £50k Developer contributions - £60k Coastal Communities (SUSTRANS) - £75k Other contributions - £100k
Ammanford Economic Infrastructure (Priority 3)	100	Internal budgets (Capital Programme) - £62k Developer Contributions - £38k

Road Safety Revenue	0	
Road Safety Capital	49.1	Internal budgets (Revenue)
Safe Routes in the Communities	40	Internal budgets (Capital Programme and Road Safety & Footway Improvement Programme) - £40k
TOTAL	974.1	

Endorsement of the proposed bid is sought.