



Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 19/10/2022

To: Cabinet

Report Title: Active Travel Social Prescribing Pilot

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision?
Cllr Joe Blackham	Balby South Hexthorpe and Balby North Bentley Wheatley Hills and Intake	Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. In October 2021 the Department for Transport launched an expression of interest for Active Travel Social Prescribing Pilots to be developed. Doncaster, with support from South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority were successful in this stage. Doncaster Council were awarded £60,000 to develop a feasibility study to demonstrate how an ATSP pilot would operate.
2. The feasibility study was submitted by Doncaster in May 2022, and on 22 August 2022, the Department for Transport (DfT) announced that Doncaster was one of eleven pilots to receive funding. The bid process was incredibly competitive with the DfT, receiving over thirty proposals from Authorities across the Country.
3. The grant funding is wholly from DfT, to deliver an experimental pilot to test and learn about the impact of Active Travel Social Prescribing alongside monitoring the value of the investment.
4. Doncaster has been awarded £665,000 of revenue over a 3-year period, with the following breakdown:

Year	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Funding	£266000	£199500	£199500

The funds provided are to be spent on revenue activity, to support residents to use infrastructure which is already funded and being delivered through external capitals programme such as the Transforming Cities Fund and the Active Travel Fund.

5. This report seeks approval to accept £665,000 of funding from the DfT to deliver an Active Travel Social Prescribing pilot in Doncaster and to provide delegated authority to Directors of Economy and Environment and Public Health to enter in to a funding agreement with DfT to allow delivery.
6. Social Prescribing is a means of enabling people to participate in a range of local non-clinical services. Social Prescribing seeks to address people’s needs in a holistic way. It also aims to support individuals to take greater control of their own health and wellbeing. Active Travel Social Prescribing aims to reduce health inequality and make active lifestyles more attractive to people by offering free-to-access cycling and walking activities such as walking groups, free bike loans and cycle training. The pilot will be fully inclusive, as it will include the provision of adapted bikes to enable people with physical disabilities to experience and enjoy the benefits of cycling.
7. The pilot is targeted to link in with infrastructure being installed as part of transforming city programme, need and existing activity taking place in the identified location. The project will build on what is already happening in Doncaster, and will help to strengthen the following offer for residents who access social prescribing:
 - Cycle training and led rides
 - Walking groups
 - Personalised travel planning
 - Inclusive cycling sessions
 - ‘Bikes on prescription’ loan
 - Stakeholder engagement events
8. The programme below provides an indicative budget for the ATSP project:

		Budget
Active travel intervention	Led rides	35,000
	Cycle training	45,000
	Personalised Travel Planning	£40,000
	Led walks	£30,000
	WFA inclusive sessions	£35,000
	Maintenance	£22,500
	Stakeholder engagement events	£7,500
Comms and marketing	Creation of case study videos	£15,000
	Marketing materials	£15,000
	Social media campaign	£15,000
Monitoring and Evaluation	M&E resource	£70,000

Staffing / Resourcing	Behaviour change training	£15,000
	ATSP PM / Co-ordinator	£150,000
Equipment Costs	Cycle loans	£75,000
	Cycle storage	£45,000
	Phase 2 set up costs	£25,000
	Phase 3 set up costs	£25,000
Total		£665,000

9. The delivery of the active travel interventions services, listed in the table above will be subject to a competitive tender process, with an external partner coming into deliver the services. A procurement exercise will also be undertaken for the monitoring and evaluation budget.
10. The project directly aligns with the Doncaster Delivering Together Strategy, by putting health and wellbeing at the heart of transportation, the economy and leisure opportunities. The pilot will test a whole system way of working, which provides multiple opportunities and benefits and offer opportunities to reduce inequalities for example;
- Support people to access other/more affordable transport options for work and leisure
 - Connecting people to opportunities
 - Enabling access and mobility, reducing barriers to work and wider wellbeing)
11. Balby has been selected as the location for the pilot in phase 1 of the programme. There is potential that the project will be scaled up to Bentley in phase 2 and then Wheatley in phase 3, but this decision will lie with the Department for Transport. The conditions of the funding are that the pilot must be delivered in a location where active travel schemes are already taking place, and have a clear evidence of economic and health inequalities.
12. Doncaster Council is delivering a strategic walking and cycling vision connecting key towns and villages, including Balby, with the town centre. The schemes are a combination of LTN 1/20 compliant pedestrian improvements, segregated cycle facilities and improved road quiet ways. These schemes address the need for more accessible infrastructure to enable disabled people to walk and cycle more through improvements that link the community with the parks and green space. Through Social Prescribing, we want to reach out to people with long-term health conditions and disabilities, connect them to expertise in inclusive cycling and walking to create

an environment where physical activity and independent mobility is a reality for more of our residents.

13. Balby is a deprived area with many residents experiencing long-term health conditions. Appreciative Inquiry carried out by Well Doncaster within the community identified parks as a key and valuable asset.
14. Woodfield Park is the obvious place to host the pilot. Adult and Family learn to ride sessions already take place through Capability Funding, enhancing this offer with the provision of adapted cycles would provide create a fully inclusive scheme. Woodfield Park is run by Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust and in 2011, the Big Lottery awarded funds to the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare for the 'Outer Space' project, as part of the Access to Nature programme run by Natural England. This showed how improving access to green spaces could be used for a wide range of green health benefits for local people and patients. The site is centred within the ancient woodland, providing a peaceful, safe location for walking and cycling, ideal for social prescribing referrals.
15. As the project is a pilot, DfT are in the process of setting criteria around a robust monitoring and evaluation framework. Funding within the grant allocation has been set aside to complete an independent evaluation.

EXEMPT REPORT

16. N/A

RECOMMENDATIONS

17. Approve accepting £665,000 of funding from the Department for Transport (DfT) to delivery an active travel social prescribing pilot in Doncaster.
18. Approve delegated authority to Directors of Economy and Environment and Public Health, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement to enter in to a funding agreement with DfT to allow delivery of the project.
19. Approve delegated authority for Councils S151 officer to sign off Outcome agreement.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

20. The project has the potential to improve the quality of life for some of our most vulnerable residents.
21. On 06/07/2022, Cabinet adopted the refreshed Get Doncaster Moving (GDM) physical activity and sport strategy, which makes a commitment to work with and support residents to be active in the ways that they have identified, such as:
 - Moving as part of everyday life – at home, school, work, in the community
 - Access to safe and enjoyable parks and open spaces

- Access to fun, affordable and local organised activities
 - Socialising with friends, family and community
 - Safe spaces to walk and cycle
 - Playing out, and play for all ages
22. The delivery of the project will directly support disabled people and people with long-term conditions to move in the ways listed above, by developing the capability, opportunity and motivation to walk or cycle in their local area.

BACKGROUND

23. In October 2021, the Department for Transport launched an expression of interest for Active Travel Social Prescribing Pilots to be developed. Doncaster, with support from South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority were successful in this stage. Doncaster Council were awarded £60,000 to develop a feasibility study to demonstrate how an ATSP pilot would operate.
24. The DfT have announced Doncaster have been successful with the feasibility study and we have been awarded £665,000 of revenue funding over a 3 year period.
25. Active Travel Social Prescribing aims to reduce health inequality and make active lifestyles more attractive to people by offering free-to-access cycling and walking activities such as walking groups, free bike loans and cycle training. The pilot will be fully inclusive, as it will include the provision of adapted bikes to enable people with physical disabilities to experience and enjoy the benefits of cycling.
26. There is an ever-growing need to bring new and innovative ways to help improve physical and mental health issues such as inactivity, loneliness, obesity and general poor health, many of which have been exacerbated by the Covid 19 pandemic.
27. Doncaster already has a well-established Social Prescribing offer. This project would enhance the offer and the initial pilot area would be Balby, with a view to scaling up the project in subsequent years.
28. Balby has been selected as the location for the pilot in year 1 of the programme. This will be scaled up to Bentley in year 2 and then Wheatley in year 3. Doncaster Council is delivering a strategic walking and cycling vision connecting key towns and villages, including Balby, with the town centre. The schemes are a combination of LTN 1/20 compliant pedestrian improvements, segregated cycle facilities and improved road quiet ways. These schemes address the need for more accessible infrastructure to enable people with disabilities to walk and cycle more through improvements that link the community with the parks and green space. Through Social Prescribing, we want to reach out to people with health conditions and disabilities, connect them to expertise in inclusive cycling and walking to create an environment where physical activity and independent mobility is a reality for more of our residents.

29. Balby is a deprived area with many residents experiencing long-term health conditions. Appreciative Inquiry carried out by Well Doncaster within the community identified parks as a key and valuable asset.
30. Woodfield Park is the obvious place to host the pilot. Adult and Family learn to ride sessions already take place through Capability Funding, enhancing this offer with the provision of adapted cycles would provide create a fully inclusive scheme. Woodfield Park is run by Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust and in 2011, the Big Lottery awarded funds to the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare for the 'Outer Space' project, as part of the Access to Nature programme run by Natural England. This showed how improving access to green spaces can be used for a wide range of green health benefits for local people and patients. The site is centred within the ancient woodland, providing a peaceful, safe location for walking and cycling, ideal for social prescribing referrals.
31. Anticipated outputs for the Active Travel Social Prescribing programme are as follows:
- 500 led ride participants
 - 400-450 cycle trained
 - 350-400 cycle loans
 - 200 attending Wheels for All sessions
 - 500-750 led walk participants
 - 200 receiving personalise travel planning

The expected outcomes for the programme are:

- Link workers create trusted relationships with participants
- Increase in number of trained link workers
- Increase in the number of trained active travel providers able to meet a range of health and mobility needs
- Increased awareness of existing community assets
- Development of a comms and marketing campaign to promote activities to local residents
- Evidence to inform/support future revenue and capital funding bids
- Development and strengthening of local partnerships
- Development of best practice resources

32. Value for Money

The analysis undertaken during the feasibility stage has followed the DfT's Social Prescribing Active Travel Pilots Value for Money Guidance, using the DfT's Active Mode Appraisal Toolkit (AMAT).

33. As shown in the table below, the first year of the programme achieves a BCR of 2.92. Based on the monetised benefits this would represent HIGH value for money (2.0-4.0). Furthermore, the low growth sensitivity test shows that even under further

conservative demand assumptions the BCR remains in the HIGH value for money category.

	BENEFITS (£000)		
	Core	Low Growth (-25%)	High Growth (+25%)
Present Value Costs (PVC)	321.746	241.31	402.18
Present Value Benefits (PVB)	110.04	110.04	110.04
Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR)	2.92	2.19	3.65

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

34. Two options have been considered:

Do something- Accept the funding and deliver an Active Travel Social Prescribing Pilot in Doncaster


Do nothing- Failure to accept the grant funds will result in Doncaster residents not benefiting from the programme






REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION



35. Accepting the grant funds will allow Doncaster deliver an Active Travel Social Prescribing pilot

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

36.

Great 8 Priority	Positive Overall	Mix of Positive & Negative	Trade-offs to consider – Negative overall	Neutral or No implications
 Tackling Climate Change	✓			
Comments The scheme could encourage a modal shift towards active travel away from car journeys which would lead to a reduction in emissions.				

 Developing the skills to thrive in life and in work	✓			
<p>Through the project residents will be provided with an opportunity to learn new skills including learning to ride safely and maintain a bicycle. As they progress and their confidence builds residents will also learn how to plan safe walking and cycling routes to other destinations</p>				
 Making Doncaster the best place to do business and create good jobs				✓
<p>Through the projects, residents will be provided the opportunity to learn to ride and equipment they need to access employment by foot or bike.</p>				
 Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all	✓			
<p>Tackling inequalities by providing inclusive opportunities for all residents of Balby to access the pilot. There is also the social aspect of the programme that will help encourage socially isolated people into a space where they feel safe and supported. The project will be targeted at people living with poor health, and affected most by health inequalities.</p> <p>By engaging in physical activity through walking and cycling, residents are likely to improve their health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The programme will connect directly with the health and care system, supporting improved pathways to better health.</p>				
 Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs	✓			
<p>The pilot will enable people to access local green and open spaces safely utilising the new infrastructure which is built to LTN 120 standards, meaning it is accessible for all.</p>				
 Nurturing a child and family-friendly borough				✓

 Building Transport and digital connections fit for the future				✓
Whilst no transport infrastructure will be funded through this programme, it will provide residents with an opportunity to use existing and new active travel infrastructure.				
 Promoting the borough and its cultural, sporting, and heritage opportunities	✓			
Active travel is 1 of 9 ambitions within the refreshed GDM strategy, and therefore the programme directly aligns with the Get Doncaster Moving (GDM) ambitions and vision of healthy and vibrant communities through physical activity and sport.				
Fair & Inclusive	✓			

Legal Implications [Officer Initials: SRF] Date: 31.08.22]

37. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a general power of competence to do anything that individuals may generally do. Section 2B of the National Health Service Act 2006 (as amended by Section 12 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012) introduced duties on Council's in England to take appropriate steps to improve the health of people who live in their area.
38. Any goods or services purchased using these monies must be procured in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules and the requirements of the external funder and advice should be sought from Strategic Procurement and Legal Services. The Project lead should seek legal advice on the terms of the DfT funding agreement before signing and should ensure that they have a thorough understanding of its contents in order to negate the risk of funding clawback.

Financial Implications [Officer Initials: _RT_ | Date: ___05/09/22___]

39. The purpose of this report is to accept £665,000 of funding from the Department for Transport (DfT) to delivery an Active Travel Social Prescribing pilot in Doncaster.
40. The funding needs to be built into the service revenue budgets for the next three years. Monitoring of the grant and associated expenditure will be completed as part of the monthly monitoring process. Should costs exceed the allocated grant then additional resources would need to be identified within the service.
41. All elements of this project are revenue in nature.
42. The grant will be paid in three instalments between 2022/23 and 2024/25 with 40% of the grant being paid in year one and 30% in each of the subsequent years – subject to receipt of the signed grant acceptance document.

LOCAL AUTHORITY	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	TOTAL
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	£266,000	£199,500	£199,500	£665,000

43. The grant may be audited by the Department for Transport or external auditors.
44. Doncaster Council's Financial Procedure Rules state:

External Funding

E.9 Directors are authorised to apply for external funding, in consultation with the CFO, which contribute to the delivery of Council services or achievement of Council goals. Grant acceptance and/or commitment is subject to key decision rules.

E.10 Any external funding received by the Council after the budget for the year has been approved, outside of rule E.9, will be classed as a corporate resource unless otherwise determined by the CFO.

E.11 Directors are responsible for ensuring that action plans are in place (including exit strategies and match funding arrangements) for all external funding within the Directorate.

E.12 The CFO, in consultation with the respective Director, is responsible for ensuring that all funding notified by external bodies is received and properly recorded in the Council's accounts. Directors are responsible for promptly informing the CFO about such funding and of any subsequent modifications to timing and amounts of anticipated funding.

E.13 Where the income is receivable against a grant claim, the respective Director is responsible for producing the grant claim and shall provide sufficient information to enable the claim to be signed by the Chief Executive, CFO or any other relevant person

where appropriate

The Service must ensure these rules are adhered to.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: KJ | Date: 26/08/2022]

45. There are no direct HR Imps in relation to this report, but if in future staff are affected or additional specialist resources are required then further consultation will need to take place with HR.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: PW | Date: 02/09/22]

46. There are no anticipated technology implications in relation to this report. However, any requirements for new, enhanced or replacement technology to support the delivery of the Active Travel Social Prescribing Pilot will need to be considered and prioritised by the Technology Governance Board (TGB).

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

47. The main risk to programme is the funding not being accepted by the Authority which would lead to Doncaster residents not benefiting from this intervention.

CONSULTATION

48. Cabinet members for Highways and Transport and Public Health have been briefed on the project. Local ward members for Balby North and Hexthorpe and Balby South have been consulted. The feasibility study and project proposal was designed following engagement from a wide range of stakeholders; including residents, ward members, Doncaster's social prescribing steering group, South Yorkshire MCA, South Yorkshire ICS, Well Doncaster, Doncaster's Primary Care Network, Wheels for All and providers of active travel services in Doncaster.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

49. Active Travel Social Prescribing Expression of Interest.

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

50. ATSP- Active Travel Social Prescribing
DfT- Department for Transport

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