



CABINET REPORT

Date Written	9 th February 2021
Report Author	Alun Evans / Chris Long
Service Area	Community Regeneration
Committee Division	Cabinet
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	24 th February 2021

To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

Welsh Government Transport Funding Bids 2021/22

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

1.1 A total of £24.362 MILLION in bids has been submitted by Council to the Welsh Government for the Local Transport Fund, Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Transformational Fund, Resilient Roads Fund, and the Active Travel Fund. This will enable the development and delivery of various local and regional transportation projects.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that

2.1 The funding bids identified within the report be approved.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

3.1 This Council has submitted bids to the Welsh Government for Transport Funding in January 2021 for several local and regional transportation projects and programmes. These are managed internally by the Strategic Infrastructure Programme Manager, who also facilitates and co-ordinates major infrastructure programmes on behalf of the Cardiff Capital Regional Transport Authority (CCRTA). The latter role enables this Council to play a leading and remunerated role in the development and delivery of significant, strategic regional projects.

4.0 LOCAL TRANSPORT FUND, ULTRA LOW EMISSION VEHICLE TRANSFORMATION FUND, RESILIENT ROADS FUND AND ACTIVE TRAVEL FUND

- 4.1 The Council has bid for a total of **£24.362 MILLION** to Welsh Government for the Local Transport Fund, Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Transformation Fund, Resilient Roads Fund and the Active Travel Fund.
- 4.2 The purpose of Welsh Government's Transport Funding is to enable Councils to develop integrated, effective, accessible, affordable, and sustainable transport systems the support strategic outcomes as outlined in the Programme for Government and the Wales Transport Strategy.

Local Schemes

- 4.3 A sum of **£375k** has been bid for the completion of construction of the new bus interchange in Merthyr Tydfil town centre. The funding will cover the outstanding elements of construction, as well as the contractor retention sum, payable at the end of the 12-month defects period.
- 4.4 The Council has also bid for **£920k** to the Resilient Roads Fund. This will enable the Council to continue delivering projects that mitigate and adapt the effects of climate change, including addressing disruptions caused on the highway network by severe weather. The proposed schemes focus on drainage improvements to on the Borough's highway network.
- 4.5 In addition, the Council has also bid for a total of **£2.27 MILLION** from the Active Travel Fund 2020/21 for Core Active Travel work, including scheme development, minor scheme improvements and review of the Integrated Network Maps. The main scheme priority will be to continue the development and commence the delivery of a network of walking and cycling routes focussed in and around the town centre – Merthyr Tydfil Interchange Central – whilst other development work will look at a potential link from the Taff Trail to Bike Park Wales, as well as upgrading opportunities on the Trevithick Trail.

Regional Programmes

- 4.6 A further **£9.98 MILLION** has been bid on behalf of the CCRTA's Metro Plus Programme, which this Council currently manages. This is for the development and design of regional transport projects aligned to the Welsh Government's current investment in the transformational Core Valleys Lines rail system, with local schemes focussed on opportunities at Merthyr Tydfil Rail Station and Pentrebach Rail Park and Ride Station.
- 4.7 A bid for **£10.817 MILLION** was also submitted on behalf of the CCRTA to the Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle Transformation Fund. This will continue the delivery of the regional programme of investment in ULEV projects, with this Council facilitating and managing the finances. The fund enables Councils to develop and deliver schemes

that supports the Welsh Government's target of zero emissions from taxis and PHVs by 2028.

4.8 The bid for 2021/22 covers the ongoing project to introduce ULEV infrastructure for taxis, new projects to introduce bus, transport hub and public use ULEV infrastructure, a project to develop the business case for investment in ULEV buses and the development of taxi incentives to assist operators in updated their fleets.

4.9 All the above funding bids relate to the April 2021 to March 2022.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

5.1 There are no financial implications as the award of £24.362 MILLION is 100% funded by Welsh Government.

6.0 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts	Not Applicable
1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives	4 of 4	0 of 4	0 of 4
2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you considered the five ways of working: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration • Involvement 	5 of 5	0 of 5	0 of 5
3. Protected Characteristics <i>(including Welsh Language)</i>	10 of 10	0 of 10	0 of 10
4. Biodiversity	1 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1

Summary:

The proposed projects and programmes identified for Welsh Government Transport Funding 2021/22 bid will improve and enhance the local and regional environment and provide high quality, modern facilities for residents to undertake safe and attractive, sustainable travel journeys.

No negative impacts have been identified.

**ALYN OWEN
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**COUNCILLOR GERAINT THOMAS
CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND
REGENERATION**

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		No

Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.