

Agenda Item No. 7(m)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING

20 January 2015

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**PEDAL PEAK DISTRICT – GRANTS TO SUPPORT CYCLING IN
NATIONAL PARKS (HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE)**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To seek Cabinet approval for the acceptance of an additional Government grant from the Department for Transport (DfT) for the Pedal Peak II Project to encourage cycling in and around the Peak District National Park and to highlight further opportunities for grant funding for cycling infrastructure in Derbyshire.

(2) **Information and Analysis** Derbyshire County Council is the lead authority managing the Pedal Peak II Project. The original total value of the scheme was £7.5 million which comprised £5 million of grant money from the DfT and a further £2.5 million in contributions from the project partners (Peak District National Park Authority, Staffordshire County Council, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council and Sheffield City Council). The County Council's contribution to the scheme costs for the Derbyshire element is £1.5 million and is funded from the Local Transport Plan 2010/11.

The grant offer was made in August 2013 and Cabinet approved the acceptance of the grant for the Project and its addition to the Highways and Transport Capital Programme at its meeting of 10 September 2013 and agreed to act as the accountable body for the administration of the grant (Minute No. 226/13 refers). The value of the Project within the Capital Programme is £6.5 million, made up of the £5 million grant and Derbyshire's own contribution of £1.5 million (the partners are responsible for accounting for their own contributions).

Recently Staffordshire County Council, one of the partners, has made an additional bid to the DfT of £1.5 million to complete its element of the Project. This has been approved and an offer letter has been received by Derbyshire County Council as the accountable body for the project. This additional sum is a windfall for Staffordshire. Derbyshire's own grant allocation and that of the other partners will be unaffected with no detrimental impact on the rest of the project. Cabinet is therefore requested to approve the acceptance of this additional grant which will be accounted for through the existing financial arrangements that were set up by the County Council when the Project was established.

It should also be noted that the DfT has recently identified some surplus capital grant of £1.575 million from the Cycling Ambition Grant in National Parks Programme. An opportunity therefore exists for National Parks, in particular with a local authority, to bid for a portion of this funding. DfT is looking for either enhancements to existing schemes, or new, shovel ready schemes that could be delivered by the end of March 2015. The County Council has been in discussions with the Peak District National Park Authority with a view to submitting a bid to access this funding for the benefit of cycling in Derbyshire. An update on this process will be provided to a future meeting.

(3) **Financial Considerations** There will be no impact on the existing budget for the County Council. The details are as contained within the body of the report.

(4) **Environmental, Health, Equality and Diversity, and Transport Considerations** Cycling has benefits across a wide range of Council objectives relating to healthy travel, accessibility and environmental sustainability.

Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, human resources and property considerations.

(5) **Key Decision** No.

(6) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(7) **Background Papers** Held on file within Economy, Transport and Environment. Officer contact details – Claire O'Reilly, extension 39652.

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That Cabinet:

8.1 Approves the acceptance on behalf of Staffordshire County Council of the additional windfall grant of £1.5 million for the Pedal Peak Phase II Project.

8.2 Approves the increase in the Capital Programme for the Pedal Peak Project from £6.5 million to £8 million.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment