
Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee

24 June 2020

Reallocating Road Space in Response to COVID-19

Report by the Director of Law and Assurance

Summary

On 9 May the Secretary of State for Transport announced a £250m Emergency Active Travel Fund (EATF) to facilitate walking and cycling as a mode of transport in England. The main purpose of the funding is to promote cycling as a replacement for journeys previously made by public transport. Schemes were expected to be temporary but may evolve into permanent changes. Subsequent guidance issued by the Government allocates £3.9m, split into two tranches of schemes. Information on Tranche 1 was shared with members informally to enable input prior to the deadline for the submission of these on 5 June 2020. The deadline for Tranche 2 has yet to be announced.

Focus for scrutiny

The Committee is invited to review the initiative, and consider:

- (1) Any lessons learned from the work undertaken so far;
- (2) Member involvement in the process ahead;
- (3) How assurance is provided that the schemes proposed under the programme represent the best value for money, given the volume of suggestions;
- (4) The impact of compressed time scales, including on any limitations to the depth and scope of investigatory work; and
- (5) The implications for the Council of resourcing the work to support and develop these schemes, including consideration of any prioritisation that may be required.

The Chairman will summarise the output of the debate for consideration by the Committee.

Details

The background and context to this item for scrutiny are set out in the briefing paper at the appendix. This includes details of proposals submitted as part of Tranche 1. Any Resource and Risk Implications for the Council will be identified as

part of the decision-making process, along with Equality, Human Rights, Social Value, Sustainability and Crime and Disorder Reduction Assessments.

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Appendix

Reallocating Road Space in Response to COVID-19 – briefing paper

Background papers

None