

Thurrock Council, Civic Offices  
New Road, Grays  
RM17 6SL

10<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Mr Rupert Furness  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Dear Mr Furness

## **Thurrock UA Active Travel Funding Tranche 2 Programme**

I would like to thank you for your letter dated 13 November 2020 confirming the award of £690,000.00 to Thurrock Council towards the delivery of the second tranche of the Active Travel Fund. This letter is to confirm it is our intention to claim the funds and to provide an update of the delivery programme including schemes and timescales, as well as details of our proposed consultation Strategy.

At the time of our submission towards the end of Summer 2020, we submitted a long list of schemes which the authority were intending to deliver as part of the originally proposed grant sum, and intended ambition for delivering additional schemes if funding were made available.

As a result of the award being reduced to 60% of the initial grant indication, we have refined our programme list. This list still extends beyond the funding provision, and will be determined via the engagement exercise we are intending to undertake, as mandated in the funding award letter. The schemes are listed in Appendix A.

Alongside the physical infrastructure schemes, the Council is intending to use the revenue allocation within the fund to support the ongoing delivery of the cycle hub in Tilbury to act as a focal point to further support and enable walking and cycling within the borough. The cycle hub was initially funded through the DfT Access fund, and expires in March 2021.

## **Stakeholder Engagement Strategy**

A Stakeholder Engagement Strategy has been developed to support the delivery of the Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 schemes. A copy of this is found in Appendix 2 of this letter and will be found on the Thurrock Council website by visiting [www.thurrock.gov.uk/travel-strategies/](http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/travel-strategies/) as of 18 December 2020. As you will see, the strategy has identified which key stakeholders the Council will engage with specifically for each scheme. Officers intend to utilise traditional methods of outreach, including letters and flyers to communities and stakeholder in areas which will benefit from these schemes, as well as making use of the Councils Online Engagement Portal. Since the submission of the Tranche 2 bid, the Council has launched a walking and cycling consultation, and this can be found at:-

<https://consult.thurrock.gov.uk/makewalkingcyclingbetter>, which itself has already had approximately 100 responses.

The Council will seek to undertake consultation with stakeholders commencing late 2020 through until early February, where the funding package will undergo our own internal scrutiny and schemes will receive approval by Councillors. At this stage, we will endeavour to write to you again with details of the outcomes from our stakeholder engagement, and a finalised list of schemes and timeframes. Obviously, taking into consideration the timing of the announcement of the final awards, and a requirement to undertake this consultation, it is not likely that all schemes will be delivered by the end of March 2021. However, as suggested in the online Active Travel Fund workshops held in early November, the Council can commit towards the commencement of schemes, and these will be delivered by end September 2021.

I hope the above satisfies your requirements at this early stage of the Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 delivery. Should you wish to seek additional information regarding our schemes or engagement strategy, please do not hesitate to contact the team at [transportdevelopment@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:transportdevelopment@thurrock.gov.uk) or telephone 01375 652006.

We look forward to confirmation of the awarding of the monies, and we will write to you again in the New Year with finalised details of our programme and stakeholder engagement outcomes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Millard', written in a cursive style.

Andy Millard  
Director of Place

## Appendix 1 – Revised Scheme List

The following list is refined from the original submission in the Tranche 2 Proforma. This is to reflect the reduction in funding award, alongside additional funding from other sources.

1. Orsett Cock A128 Signalised Crossing – a new toucan signalised crossing across the A128 at the Orsett Cock junction to enable safe crossing across the road. This will help towards the completion of a segregated cycle route from Grays to Stanford le Hope.
2. London Road, Stanford le Hope – A new permeant shared path along London Road between A1013 Rookery Corner and Stanford le Hope Railway Station, which will link with works undertaken as part of Tranche 1 in this station area, with the potential upgrade of a zebra crossing to a Tiger Crossing.
3. Purfleet Road, Aveley – new shared use path along Purfleet Road, linking A1306 through to Aveley Community Hub in the village centre.
4. Branksome Avenue, Stanford le Hope – Measures along the length of Branksome Avenue to create a new on-carriageway cycle route with supportive speed reduction and carriageway relining to create a safer environment, with potential opportunity for a quiet street.
5. Corringham Road, Stanford le Hope – A new cycle route linking Stanford le Hope town centre through to the Sorrells Roundabout via Billet Lane. This will be a mixture of both on- and off-carriageway infrastructure for cyclists, enhancing cycling access to London Gateway Port.
6. Orsett Village – Experimental road closure on Stifford Clays Road to enable through movements by cyclists and buses only, preventing rat-running through the village by motorists, coupled with an enhanced crossing on the A1013 providing safe access for active travel users into the village.
7. Tilbury Cycle Hub – funding to further enable the delivery of the Cycle Hub project in Tilbury, initially delivered as part of the DfT Access fund. This will act as a central point for enabling access to low cost bicycles and information about active and sustainable travel and working with the community to enable people back into work with low cost transport. This is to be funded using the revenue allocation through to March 2022.
8. Cycle Parking and Signage – Enhancements of cycle parking and signage for cyclists and pedestrians across the borough to further enable the uptake of walking and cycling as a mode of transport through the borough.
9. Monitoring – Investment in monitoring equipment to measure utilisation of new infrastructure by pedestrians and cyclists, and potential impacts on other modes of transport.

## Appendix 2 – Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

# Active Travel Fund – Tranche 2 – Thurrock Council Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

Earlier this year The Department of Transport (DfT) announced its plans for a new funding stream - The Emergency Active Travel Fund. Worth £225m, the fund would be allocated to Local Authorities across the England who could provide a reprioritisation of road space within parts of their local transport systems as an outcome to the Coronavirus epidemic.

This money would be made available for Local Authorities to bid for in two rounds referred to as Tranches. To receive the funding, local authorities must provide increased space for cyclists and pedestrians on roads and pavements, due to the now reduced capacity on the public transport system as a result of new social distancing guidelines coming in to place.

Fast-tracked guidance was published in May 2020, which came into effect immediately and requested local councils to think about providing a range of temporary initiatives changing the space available on roads and pavements for the new increasing number of pedestrians and cyclists now using them.

Thurrock Council was awarded £288,000 in Tranche 1 of the fund. The Council has primarily invested this money to make walking and cycling safer and easier around four transport hubs within the borough, with improved crossing, additional walking and cycling infrastructure, and speed restrictions around railway stations.

The Council has now been allocated a further £690,000 under Tranche 2, but the fund is now known as the Active Travel Fund. Councils have been asked to deliver additional walking and cycling measures which are permanent, but still reallocated road space. To enable this fund to be granted to Councils, all local authorities must publish a strategy which will engage with key stakeholders in respect of any proposed schemes. The Council must undertake this engagement and report back to the Department prior to installing any schemes, as well as supply a monitoring report in the 12 months which follow. Schemes are likely to be delivered into and beyond the middle of 2021.

### Indicative Scheme List

Schemes are proposed in the following locations, however engagement with stakeholders will help determine the final design and nature of the scheme:

Ref	Location	Indicative Proposal
A	A128 Brentwood Road, Orsett Cock Roundabout	New signalised crossing across the southern arm of the A128 Orsett Cock roundabout
B	London Road, Stanford le Hope	Shared path between A1013 Rookery Corner and Stanford le Hope Railway Station
C	Purfleet Road, Aveley	Shared path from A1306 to Aveley Community Hub

D	Branksome Avenue, Stanford le Hope	Measures along length road to create space for cyclists and reduced speeds for vehicles
E	Corringham Road, Stanford le Hope	A new cycle route linking town centre with the Sorrells roundabout via Billet Lane
F	Orsett Village	Experimental priority of vehicles through village to prevent rat-running of traffic and potential enhancement to crossing on A1013 to provide safe access for pedestrians and cyclists into the village

### Engagement Approach

To engage with identified stakeholders, the Council will use outreach via three methods- mail and leaflet distribution, digital channels, and presentational displays. Collectively, these methods will enable the Council to inform the public of scheme proposals, and provide ways for stakeholders as to how they can comment and provide suggestions and opinions.

**Leaflet and Mail** – Relevant to each scheme, a determination will be made to distribute physical media to businesses and households within a set radius of the scheme. This will therefore ensure those who are most directly impacted by location will be informed that the Council are seeking their views on potential schemes. This media, likely leaflet distribution, will also provide the necessary information as to how stakeholders can engage with the Council on the respective local and other schemes. It is expected stakeholders within no greater distance of 1km radius of the scheme will be informed, but in some examples, such as scheme A – A128 Brentwood Road, this will impact stakeholders and communities beyond this immediate area, and therefore additional outreach may be implemented.

**Digital Channels** – The Council has a number of digital channels through which it can promote new schemes, and also enable consultation. The Thurrock Council social media channels are very active, and have significant outreach with the local community, via Facebook and Twitter. These can be used to point interested parties towards relevant media pages. The Council’s website would be designated as the central source for hosting the relevant information of schemes for the public to view. This would be located in the Transport section of the website, with a dedicated landing page. Thurrock Council also has a top of the range consultation and engagement portal, powered by Bang the Table, where stakeholders will be able to engage and leave feedback and comments regarding schemes. The Council currently has a consultation supporting walking and cycling, where stakeholders can leave details about new infrastructure which is required to help increase the uptake of walking and cycling throughout the borough – <https://consult.thurrock.gov.uk/makewalkingcyclingbetter>. Web links to pages holding information about the schemes will be provided via the social media posts, and also given on the physical media. An additional source the Council can tap into is its range of Real Time Bus Information Displays placed across the borough, which can be used to promote scheme engagement. The Council has control over these sources to display the information. Additionally, the Council will seek to see if online webinars can be used so that stakeholders can engage directly with the Council and hear first-hand of the benefits and reasoning behind schemes.

**Presentational Displays** – Lastly, the Council will consider the merit of displays of schemes in prominent locations within the relevant areas across the borough. Primarily, the Council would utilise its network of libraries and community hubs to present displays of schemes, and provide forms and web links for those viewing to offer their comments. Where safe and feasible, the Council could seek to have persons present to help answer any questions. Locations most relevant would be Aveley Community Hub (Scheme C), Chadwell St Mary Centre/Chadwell Library (Scheme A), Blackshots Library (Scheme A & F), Corringham Library (Scheme A, B, D, E). Other locations, where appropriate will be considered.

### Identified Stakeholders

Thurrock Council will seek to engage with the following names stakeholders to support the development of the proposed schemes:

**Members of Parliament** – Jackie Doyle Price – Thurrock; and Stephen Metcalf – South Basildon and East Thurrock;

**Neighbouring Local Authorities** – Essex County Council; Basildon District Council; Brentwood Borough Council; Castle Point District Council; The London Borough of Havering.

**Key Service Providers** –Ensign Buses, Tfl Buses, First Bus Group, Nibbs buses, Thurrock based mail and parcel logistics firms – Amazon, Royal Mail, UPS,

**Large Employment Organisations** – Amazon, Lakeside Shopping Centre (formally into Lakeside), DP World, Port of Tilbury, CRo Ports Purfleet, Basildon Hospital, Orsett Hospital, and other large employers local to schemes;

**Charities and Third Sector Organisations** – Ngage, Thurrock Community Forums (relevant to schemes), Gateway Cycling, Thurrock Cycle Campaign, Ramblers and Walking for Health, Local Community Hubs, Job Centre Plus, Local Schools, The Safer Essex Roads Partnership, South Essex Active Travel/ForwardMotion.

**Ward Councillors** – All Members are to be made aware of the stakeholder engagement and links to the webpages of the schemes to pass general comment. Councillors whose wards host schemes will be informed and briefed specifically about individual schemes as shown in the table:

Ward	Councillor 1	Councillor 2	Councillor 3	Relevant Scheme
Orsett	Barry Johnston	Susan Little		A, F
Stanford le Hope West	Shane Hebb	Terry Piccolo		B, E
Aveley and Uplands	Luke Spillman	David Van Day	Colin Churchman	C
The Homesteads	Gary Collins	James Halden	Gary Byrne	D, E

**Timescales**

Thurrock Council is seeking to publish this stakeholder engagement strategy in mid-December, and commence the engagement process from December and into the New Year. It is proposed engagement will be completed prior to the end of February with schemes finalised and outcomes reported to the Department for Transport in March, following the completion of constitutional processes within Thurrock Council. Stakeholders who engaged and wish to be informed will then hear about the outcomes of the engagement process and the finalised nature of schemes. At this stage, the Council will seek to commence implementation of schemes.

**Feedback**

To provide initial feedback to this Stakeholder Engagement Strategy, or in regards to proposed schemes, or the Active Travel Fund within Thurrock, interested parties and stakeholders can contact the Council via email at [transportdevelopment@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:transportdevelopment@thurrock.gov.uk) or via telephone 01375 652006.