**Leeds Emergency Active Travel Group**

**5th August 2020**

Attended: Cllr Lisa Mulherin, Tina Shield, Ruth Gelletlie, Martin Hamilton, Margo Hanson, Lizzie Greenwood, Paul Foster, Mark Goldstone, David Mihell, Anzir Boodoo, Cllr Peter Carlill, Shannon Jackson

**Details of Tranche 2 Bid**

* This bid represents “an area changing package” as opposed to isolated schemes
* The bid includes:
  + North East package: Active Travel Neighbourhoods in Chapeltown and segregated cycle lane on Harrogate road
  + East Package: Active Travel Neighbourhood in East End Park
  + West Package: Armley, Wortley and Copley Hill-- Active Travel Neighbourhood and cycle lanes, improvements to Armley Gyratory
  + South Package: Hunslet and Middleton—including Active Travel Neighbourhoods in Middleton and segregated cycleways
  + Satellite Towns Package: Otley and Garforth—segregated cycle lanes and promotion of walking and cycling
  + City Connect network expansion
  + Tranche 1 enhancement package
  + E-scooters and cycle parking
  + Monitoring and Evaluation
* Proposed packages were above allocated funding so in prioritisation at West Yorkshire level the City Centre package was removed as it was felt it had the strongest potential for outside funding and needed more time to analyse the impacts on bus routes
* Bid also includes West Yorkshire wide behaviour change scheme—bike friendly schools, cycle training
* Eight new schools to be added to the Leeds School Streets scheme in September.
  + Schools in Active Travel Neighbourhoods will gain similar benefits from the changes in those neighbourhoods

**Discussion and Comments**

* Is it possible to use some of the funding to create a post for a Community Engagement Officer/Champion within Highways?
  + Bradford has advertised a post like this and NGO, Possible, is advertising a Car Free Campaigner role based in Leeds (or York)
  + There is a team working on Connecting Leeds engagement, they have been speaking to Active Leeds about promoting these projects.
  + There is a team of transport planners within LCC supporting the current active travel neighbourhoods and supporting active travel schemes more generally
  + A specific role around community engagement is needed because there isn’t capacity within the supporting groups within the Council —it needs a dedicated officer rather than ad hoc support spread amongst other roles (Lizzie from Public Health)
  + £20-£25k represents less than 1% of total budget to fund a role that would be key to the success of the project
  + Can the funding be spent on this?
    - It wouldn’t necessarily need to be part of the bid it would probably be an internal restructure.
* Importance of communicating the benefits of these schemes to avoid the inconvenience of street closures becoming the primary narrative
  + Money is being spent on actively trying to whip up anger against these schemes. It would be a good use of money to try to combat this
  + Waltham Forest and Manchester Beeline were given as examples of places that have put resources into community engagement
    - Our ambition for Leeds alone is arguably greater than the ambition for the BeeLine though it has not had as much publicity
  + There is a need for more than one active travel ambassador to best encourage all abilities and communities in Leeds
  + Transfer to a Mayoral authority could help with this as the higher profile ambassadors elsewhere cover combined authority/mayoral areas
  + As tranche 2 bid goes in there should be more time before those schemes start on the ground to do more work speaking to communities in advance but LCC resources are stretched thin by pandemic and ten years of austerity
* Why has there not been more allocated for monitoring and evaluation? The amount should be doubled.
  + LCC is looking at supporting a bid to ESRC which would help towards evaluation and monitoring (grant is for £15k max)
  + Could make use of Paul Chatterton’s students on sustainable cities MA course
  + Robin Lovelace
* LCWIP cycling and walking infrastructure consultation was conducted around one route—need grassroots approach for the next steps on that especially around walking routes
  + Wheelchair and other wheeled conveyances should be considered within any walking plan
  + There is a hope to pick up some of that within active travel neighbourhoods
  + Anzir has been working with businesses such as the Corn Exchange on changes that can be made at low or no cost
* How is LCC planning to engage with sectors of the population that have low levels of activity and are less engaged in active travel (South Asian women and children, older people)?
  + This is why LCC did not just look at neighbourhoods that shouted the loudest
  + It is important to capture details about *who* is engaging with active travel schemes to determine whether or not they are working for everyone
* Can the funding be used to prime pump for more meaningful community engagement and monitoring?
* Behaviour change project by Magpie and Steer how does that project fit with this one?
  + Paul will bring information about that to next meeting
* Leeds Eastside Competition results available on [www.liveable-leeds.org.uk](http://www.liveable-leeds.org.uk) Perhaps some of these ideas could be incorporated into planning for this area

**Actions**

* Action Lizzie deputise someone to speak at next meeting on her behalf
* Action Cllr Mulherin email Sheila and CC Shannon

**Next meeting 19th August 2020** (Apologies from Cllr Mulherin and Lizzie Greenwood)