

Summary of Active Travel Board

6 June 2019

Capital Funding

The Board discussed Capital funding which the Welsh Government provides to Local Authorities. The Deputy Minister outlined the Capital funding announced for 2019-20, drawing attention to his emphasis on only funding ambitious schemes. The Board agreed with this approach but highlighted the need to support local authorities on developing ambitious schemes. There was some discussion on using behaviour diagnostics to unpack what infrastructure could be most effective and beneficial. The Deputy Minister expressed his expectation that reviewing the Design and Delivery Guidance, along with additional training and help with consultation, will produce more effective and comprehensive local authority active travel maps which will then impact on better schemes being developed.

The recent report on active travel and physical activity, commissioned by Sport England, was highlighted to the Board. It was agreed the physical activity leads of NRW, Sport Wales and PHW who are collaborating, should meet with Adrian Davis who was involved in producing the report.

The Board discussed the practicalities of the grant announcement, with the delay and request for additional information causing issues in allowing sufficient time to complete schemes within the financial year. It was suggested a permanent bottom line of funding may alleviate this pressure for local authorities or borrowing powers for local authorities.

Road Safety

The Board discussed how the current position on road safety could be changed and how to re-focus grant funding. It was suggested using the 'theory of change' approach, which considers the problem and uses evidence to determine appropriate measures. This would be beneficial in identifying key interventions which should be supported. There was some discussion on this approach, with the Board agreeing a simpler model for identifying appropriate measures should be developed.

The Board also agreed to the creation of a joint active travel and road safety sub-group to discuss the potential changes to current road safety provision further.

Delivery and Design Guidance Review Update

The Board was updated on the Delivery and Design Guidance review which is ongoing. The final documents will go through a full consultation. Welsh Government has started discussing with TfW and professional institutions such as Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) and Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE) how best to develop training and will work with them to launch the consultation.

Active Travel to School National Advisory Group (ATSNAG) Action Plan Update

The Board was provided a brief update on the Active Travel to School National Advisory Group's (ATSNAG) action plan. The Hands Up Survey is currently being used in a small number of authorities and will be rolled out nationally in September 2019. The Board queried

whether the hands-up survey could be extended to secondary schools and it was agreed this would be looked into with ATSNAG.

The Deputy Minister discussed the ATSNAG liaising more closely with the cross-party group on active travel and also being involved in discussions with the Minister for Education regarding 21st century schools. It was agreed a representative from ATSNAG should be invited to join the cross-party group.

AOB

The Board briefly discussed the recent announcement on 20mph becoming the default speed limit in Wales and the proposed timeline for implementation. The Deputy Minister advised a panel will be formed, with more information due to be available at the Active Travel Conference. The panel will publish their report within 12 months. Some Board members suggested this timescale was longer than hoped and the Deputy Minister agreed to explore whether there is scope to deliver this earlier than planned.

Date of next meeting: 7 November 2019