

11 August 2020

Cabinet Office  
County Hall  
Bythesea Road  
Trowbridge  
Wiltshire  
BA14 8JN

Our Ref: BW/LY/E20077

Dear CATG Member

## **Re-allocation of Road Space**

I thought it would be helpful to write to you to update you on the current position regarding the Re-allocation of road space project.

An initial announcement was made by central government on 9th May in relation to the re-allocation of road space with local authorities being asked to identify and deliver schemes that gave greater priority to pedestrian and cyclists. In response you will recall that the Council formed multi-disciplinary teams of officers for each community area tasked with identifying potential locations where action would be helpful. In addition, members of the public, stakeholders, partners and other organisations were invited to put forward their own suggestions. All suggestions were subject to assessment in line with government guidance to identify a priority list for design and implementation.

At that early stage there was an assumption that funding for the delivery of all the identified schemes would be provided by the Department for Transport through their Emergency Active Travel Fund

Further information from the Department for Transport (DfT) was received on the 29th May and the 10<sup>th</sup> July indicating that the funding would be released in two tranches, the first for pop up cycling schemes on routes that offer an alternative to using public transport and the second for meaningful schemes that reallocate road space to cyclists and pedestrians with a clear level of segregation or closure to traffic. Indicative funding levels for Wiltshire were £227,000 for tranche 1 and £908,000 for tranche 2.

A bid for the tranche 1 funding was successful and the identified schemes are in the process of being delivered. A bid for the tranche 2 funding is currently being put together and will be submitted in early August.

In addition to the Emergency Active Travel Fund the government has also made funding available through its Reopening the High Streets Safely Fund, for which the Council has received £449,858. We have been able to use some of this for highway purposes but there are clear and strict requirements on the use of this funding which must relate directly to the need to support local business recovery.

What has become clear is that there is no readily available funding stream for the delivery of the smaller scale 'pop up' social distancing measures of which we have had many requests. I therefore propose to allow the Community Area Transport Group's (CATG's) to use the Discretionary Highways budgets allocated to them to fund social distancing schemes if they so wish. It will be for the groups to consider and prioritise social distancing schemes alongside other received requests. In order to facilitate this, I have asked the engineering staff that support the CATG's to share the list of approved suggestions and restart the wider CATG activities.

Whilst it is disappointing that a separate funding stream is not currently available for social distancing schemes the Council will continue to seek alternative funding for this, but in the meantime the CATG's should consider whether any of the identified schemes are priorities to implement with their own funding.

Yours sincerely



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