

Report to	Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
Date	31 March 2008
Report By	Director of Transport and Environment
Title of Report	Cycle Demonstration: Town Funding: Possible Application
Purpose of Report	To consider a possible bid for Cycle Demonstration Town funding

RECOMMENDATION:

That the County Council should not submit a bid for funding as part of the Cycling Demonstration Towns initiative, primarily due to the scale of match funding requirements and the impact this would have on delivery of the agreed three year Integrated Transport Capital Programme.

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 Under the Cycling Demonstration Towns (CDT) project, Cycling England would provide funding of £5 - £10 per head of population per year in an identified town, for a three year period.

1.2 The County Council would be required to contribute funding to at least match that of the Cycling England grant. For a town the size of Eastbourne, for example, with a population of approximately 90,000, the County Council would need to provide match funding of some £450,000 - £900,000 per year over the next three years.

1.3 Match funding could comprise a combination of Integrated Transport Capital funding, revenue funding, developer contributions or other identified sources, excluding those secured through Cycle England. Existing cycling schemes, such as Connect2, could also form part of the County Council's contribution. However, it is likely that the majority of funding would need to derive from the Integrated Transport Capital Programme, at the expense of other existing schemes.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 The recent Transport and Environment Scrutiny Review recommended that the Lead Member for Transport and Environment should consider carefully whether the County Council should submit a bid for funding under Phase 2 of Cycling England's Cycle Demonstration Towns (CDT) initiative. The Scrutiny Review was endorsed by Cabinet on 29 January 2008 and County Council on 12 February 2008.

2.2 The Department for Transport (DfT) endorsed Cycling England's proposal to expand the CDT programme on 22 January 2008, allowing a further ten demonstration towns and one large city to be added to the existing six towns selected in 2005. Bid documents were released by Cycling England on 20 February 2008, and a deadline for submissions set for 31 March 2008. Bid documentation containing the selection criteria and draft timetable is attached at Appendix A.

2.3 The aim of the CDT programme is to demonstrate how continued investment in cycling can lead to an increase in cycling levels and subsequent reduction in congestion and other wider benefits (e.g. improved personal health). This is achieved through investment in

high quality cycle infrastructure and associated 'smart' measures such as promotion and marketing.

3. Comments/Appraisal

3.1 Cycling England is focussing the 2nd phase of the CDT project on towns with a range of population sizes, from market towns through to larger towns and cities. However, the bid documents stipulate that for the purposes of calculating budgets, benefits and value for money, notional populations of around 100,000 have been assumed. Only Hastings and Eastbourne approach those populations and are potentially the only viable options in the county.

3.2 The County Council in its role as Highway Authority would be the lead partner in delivering the programme of investment. Active involvement of second tier local authorities, health and education providers, and volunteer groups, would also be expected.

3.3 There are a number of pre-requisites that Cycling England suggests need to be in place for a successful cycling town or city. These are also set out in Appendix A.

4. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

4.1 Having considered the implications of submitting a bid for CDT funding, I recommend that a bid is not submitted at this time as the magnitude of match funding would significantly distort the Integrated Transport Capital Programme being considered elsewhere on this Committee's agenda. There may be future opportunities to submit bids through this initiative, and every effort will be made to take advantage of these should circumstances permit.

RUPERT CLUBB
Director of Transport and Environment
19 March 2008

Contact Officer: Robin Reed
Local Member: All

Tel. No. 01273 481768

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Cycling England – Cycling Towns & Cities – Information for Bidders (as Appendix A)