Local Transport Capital Grants

Guidance to Applicants 2018-19

Introduction

1. The purpose of the Guidance is to confirm the transport priorities that Welsh Government will support through capital grants to local authorities in 2018-19.

2. It also sets out the process by which local authorities should submit applications in line with these priorities for consideration by the Welsh Government and how they will be assessed.

3. In developing applications you must take account of the Welsh Government Transport Appraisal Guidance (WelTAG). The application forms have been amended to reflect the WelTAG model.

Outcomes

4. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public bodies to think more about the long-term, to work better with people, communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach.

5. The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, places a duty on public bodies to seek to achieve the well-being goals and objectives in everything they do.

6. Prosperity for All: the national strategy sets out the Welsh Government’s vision for Taking Wales Forward, and sets out the well-being objectives under four key themes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prosperity for All</th>
<th>Well-being Objectives</th>
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| Prosperous & Secure | • Support People and businesses to drive prosperity  
|                     | • Tackle regional inequality and promote fair work  
|                     | • Drive sustainable growth and combat climate change |
| Healthy & Active   | • Deliver quality health and care services fit for the future  
|                     | • Promote good health and well-being for everyone  
|                     | • Build healthier communities and better environments |
| Ambitious & Learning | • Support young people to make the most of their potential  
|                     | • Build ambition and encourage learning for life  
|                     | • Equip everyone with the right skills for a changing world |
| United & Connected | • Build resilient communities, culture and language  
|                      | • Deliver modern and connected infrastructure  
|                      | • Promote and protect Wales’ place in the world |

7. There are two capital transport grants available to local authorities in FY2018-19 to deliver these objectives. Each capital grant has its own set of objectives.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant name</th>
<th>Grant objectives</th>
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| Local Transport Fund       | • Support WG economic priorities for jobs and growth, in particular for City Regions, Enterprise Zones, North Wales Economic Ambition Board, local growth zones and regeneration areas  
                          | • Reduce economic inactivity by delivering safe and affordable access to employment sites  
                          | • Encourage active and sustainable travel  
                          | • Improve quality of life particularly those living in disadvantaged and rural communities by delivering safe and easy to use transport to key facilities and services  
                          | • Connect communities and enable access to key services  
                          | • Develop active travel schemes identified in the Integrated Network Maps                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Local Transport Network Fund | • Improve public transport journey time reliability  
                          | • Improve air quality  
                          | • Reduce public transport journey times  
                          | • Connect communities and enable access to employment, education and key services                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

**Local Transport Fund**

8. Applications to the Local Transport Fund should be drawn from priorities identified within the Local Transport Plans. **In total there is £10.0m available for applications for existing schemes and for applications for active travel schemes.**

9. The total available for **existing schemes which commenced before 2017-18 is £5.0m**. Existing schemes are required to submit an updated application and the preferred maximum allocation available per scheme is £1.5m.

10. The Local Transport Fund has also been refocused this year to reflect the submission of the Active Travel Integrated Network Maps which were due to be received on 03 November 2017.

11. The integrated Network Map development process will identify schemes for the short, medium and longer term and will provide focus on Local Authority submissions that deliver active travel schemes or packages of schemes that are well developed or ready in the short term, whilst longer term schemes will need a considerable amount of detailed design and contract preparation work.

    The total available for new applications that support the delivery of Active Travel routes in 2018-19 is **£5.0m**. This funding will be allocated on a formula basis (Annex A) to cover the costs of **scheme design, land acquisition and pre-works only.**

12. Only schemes that have been identified on the relevant Integrated Network Map, submitted to Welsh Ministers will be considered for funding. To support their funding application, local authorities should set out how and for which schemes they intend to use their funding allocation. They should also set out which additional funding they
would seek about their allocation, should additional funding become available in year. A reserve list will be drawn up on the basis of these schemes.

13. If a local authority does not intend to use their full allocation in 2018-19, they should state so clearly in their applications. Any unused funding will then be made available to reserve schemes.

14. If a local authority has been asked to carry out further work on their Integrated Network Map and it has not been accepted by the start of the new financial year, then this authority’s allocation will be held until the Integrated Network Map has been accepted by Welsh Ministers.

Local Transport Network Fund

15. The total available for Local Transport Network Fund schemes across Wales for 2018-19 is £4m. The preferred maximum allocation available per scheme from the Local Transport Network Fund is £1.5m and only one application will be accepted per local authority.

Grant terms and conditions

16. Funding will be made direct to local authorities and will be available for 2018-19 only. Local authorities should note that Welsh Government is unable to give a commitment for grant support after 2018-19.

17. Other than in exceptional circumstances by prior agreement, schemes submitted for works funding in 2018-19 should demonstrate that all land issues will be resolved and orders or required permissions are in place to allow works to progress.

18. Whilst Welsh Government is prepared to fund the cost of land purchase, funding will not be provided in respect of compensation claims arising from the land purchase or from the project itself.

19. The provision of capital support to schemes is conditional upon local authorities’ commitment to meet future revenue and maintenance costs.

Eligibility for Capital Funding

20. All schemes must comply with the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 and it’s supporting guidance. Schemes that include highway improvement, construction, or traffic management must show how they comply in particular with Section 9 of the Act (Provision for walkers and cyclists in the exercise of certain functions). Funding for schemes that include walking and cycling elements will only be granted, where scheme design reflects the Active Travel Design Guidance.

21. Local authorities can work together on their applications. The lead local authority must be identified for each scheme. Funding would be allocated to the lead local authority.

22. Where relevant, local authorities should consult with the communities and stakeholders affected by the scheme and report on the process followed and feedback obtained, within their application
23. We will fund works and pre-works for capital schemes and the cost of scheme monitoring and evaluation can be included. Schemes where only pre works will take place will be eligible for consideration for funding.

24. Applications for new schemes can be made for single projects or for a package of related projects.

25. Funding will be allocated up to the amount awarded for actual eligible expenditure incurred on an accepted scheme. Funding will be capped at the level of the award and the local authority will be required to carry the risk of any overspend that may occur. Where increased costs arise due to exceptional circumstances, outside the local authority’s control, Welsh Government may consider making additional funding available.

26. Local Authorities will be expected to deliver the schemes accepted in accordance with their applications. Reports on progress will be required at intervals throughout 2018-19 and further information will be included in the grant award letter.

27. Relevant Welsh Government officials may request meetings or site visits to discuss scheme progress as considered appropriate. Failure to demonstrate appropriate progress with delivery may result in funding offers being withdrawn and funding claimed up to that point being recovered from a local authority.

28. Schemes that include match funding will attract additional scores in the appraisal process, with schemes that demonstrate greater levels of match funding scoring higher.

29. Applications must clearly identify the levels and sources of available match funding and confirm this will be in place to ensure the completion of the works within the 2018-19 financial year. Match funding may be from internal or external sources.

Monitoring and Evaluation

30. All schemes must be monitored and evaluated. Local authorities are able to include the costs of monitoring for up to three years within their funding applications but these must be clearly identified.

31. Local authorities will be required to provide Welsh Government with data on scheme outcomes achieved on an annual basis for a period of three years following completion of the scheme. Further guidance will be provided on reporting processes.

Application Process Documentation

32. Local authorities should submit their applications using the relevant template application form. All schemes will be assessed through an appraisal process.

33. Local authorities will be responsible for ensuring that delivery remains on schedule and reporting any change to the works programme and/or spend profile.

34. Supporting documentation will only be considered as follows:
- Maps and plans must clearly show the proposed measures
- Evidence of the transport and wider economic benefits of the scheme.

Appraisal Process

35. Applications will be considered by a panel of Welsh Government Transport officials and relevant external stakeholders as appropriate.

36. Final decisions on funding will be made by the Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Transport.

37. The assessment criteria for the grants are at Annex B.

Deadline for submissions

Applications must be submitted via transportplanning@wales.gsi.gov.uk by Friday 26 January 2018. No additional or revised information will be accepted after that date.
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