

Welsh Government Transport Grants Local Transport Fund, Resilient Roads Fund and Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Transformation Fund

Guidance to Applicants 2021-22

Introduction

1. The purpose of the Guidance is to advise the priorities that Welsh Government will support through the Local Transport Fund, Resilient Roads Fund and Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Transformation Fund to local authorities in Wales in 2021-22.
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. Funding will be made direct to local authorities and will be available for 2021-22 only. Local authorities should note that Welsh Government is unable to give a commitment for grant support after 2021-22.
4. **In your applications you must demonstrate that you have followed the [Welsh Government Transport Appraisal Guidance \(WeITAG\)](#). The application forms reflect the WeITAG approach.**

Outcomes

5. 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.
6. The 2015 Act, places a duty on public bodies to seek to achieve the well-being goals and objectives in everything they do.
7. **In your applications you must demonstrate that you have developed your proposal using the five ways of working and that your proposal maximises your contribution to the [well-being goals and objectives](#).**
8. **Llwybr Newydd – A New Wales Transport Strategy** is our [draft strategy](#) for the future of transport in Wales. It sets out our ambitions for the next 20 years and our priorities for the next 5 years. This forms the basis of the grant objectives.
9. **Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy** – is our [draft strategy for the development of charging infrastructure in Wales](#). It sets out a path to ensure that sufficient infrastructure is provided in Wales to meet the needs of the expected uptake in the use of electric vehicles. This supports the grant objectives for the Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles Transformation Fund.

10. In your applications you must demonstrate how your proposals will meet the grant purpose/ objectives.

Grant name	Grant purpose/ objectives
Local Transport Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce economic inactivity by delivering sustainable access to employment • Improve quality of life particularly those living in disadvantaged and rural communities by delivering sustainable access to key facilities and services • Connect communities and enable access to key services • Improve public transport journey time reliability • Reduce public transport journey times
Resilient Roads Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address disruptions caused by severe weather to the highway network, especially to the public transport network
Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles Transformation Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of charging infrastructure for electric vehicle, targeted at users without access to off-street parking. • Provision of charging infrastructure in public car parks. • Electric vehicle charging hubs – focused on areas with potential to support a variety of electric vehicle charging needs • Provision of charging infrastructure for taxis, private hire vehicles and buses • Provision of Green Fleet for taxis, private hire vehicles and buses • Provision of micro mobility (ie. support to participate in DfT e-scooter trials, promotion of e-bikes and e-cargo bikes)

Eligibility for Capital Funding

11. Subject to confirmation of budgets, the indicative total funding available for Local Transport Fund, Resilient Roads Fund and Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles Transformation Fund schemes across Wales for FY2021-22 is expected to be approximately **£68,000,000**.

12. **Local Transport Fund** – local authorities are invited to submit up to two new applications in addition to existing scheme applications. Local authorities should identify the priority order for these applications. An existing scheme is defined as one which received a grant allocation in 2020-21 from Local Transport Fund or Local Transport Network Fund.

13. **Resilient Roads Fund** – local authorities are invited to submit up to one new application in addition to existing scheme applications. An existing scheme is defined as one which received a grant allocation in 2020-21 from Resilient Roads Fund.

14. **Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Transformation Fund** – local authorities are invited to submit up to two applications. Local authorities should identify the priority order of these applications. Applications for charging infrastructure targeted at users without access to off-street parking should take note of the aims of the Office for Low

Emission Vehicles (OLEV) for the [On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme](#) and demonstrate that they have also sought funding under that scheme.

15. All applications for new and existing active travel schemes should be submitted to the Active Travel Fund.
16. All schemes must comply with the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 and its 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).
17. When designing schemes, local authorities must also consider their responsibilities under Section 6 –The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The duty requires that public authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions, and in so doing, promote the resilience of ecosystems. This is for example highly relevant to the treatment of verges and planting schemes as part of transport projects. Guidance on the Duty can be found here:
<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-11/environment-act-2016-part-1-section-6-the-biodiversity-and-resilience-of-ecosystems-duty-reporting-guidance.pdf>
18. We encourage local authorities to work together and submit regional applications. The lead local authority must be identified for each scheme. Funding would be allocated to the lead local authority. For new applications, local authorities must not exceed the maximum number of applications stated. For example, where two new applications are permitted then local authorities can submit two schemes via a regional application, or two local applications, or one of each.
19. Local authorities should consult with the communities and stakeholders affected by the scheme including public transport operators where applicable. They should report on the process followed and feedback obtained, or, if the scheme is in its earliest stages, how they will do so, within their application.
20. 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 also be eligible for consideration for funding.
21. Applications for new schemes can be made for single projects or for a package of related projects. Applications for a package of projects should contain a costed list of the associated projects in priority order.
22. 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.
23. Local Authorities will be expected to deliver the schemes accepted in accordance with their applications. Reports on progress will be required at intervals throughout the 2021-22 financial year and further information will be included in the award letter.

24. Relevant Welsh Government officials or their nominated representatives, 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.
25. Schemes that include match funding will attract additional scores in the appraisal process, with schemes that demonstrate greater levels of match funding scoring higher.
26. 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 2021-22 financial year. Match funding may be from internal or external sources and may include officer time.

Grant terms and conditions

27. Other than in exceptional circumstances by prior agreement, schemes submitted for works funding in 2021-22 should demonstrate that all land issues will be resolved and orders or required permissions are in place to allow works to progress.
28. 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.
29. The provision of capital support to schemes is conditional upon local authorities' commitment to meet future revenue and maintenance costs.

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. Schemes must be monitored for three years post completion and reported to the Welsh Government annually. Further guidance will be provided on reporting processes.

Promotion

32. Applications may include costs associated with the promotion of schemes, including signage, materials and events, for up to three years after scheme completion. These must be clearly identified.

Application Process Documentation

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

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

35. Applications for capital schemes **must include a plan showing the scheme in as much detail as possible at application stage and a map showing the scheme context**. An OS GB grid reference must also be included.

36. Supporting documentation will be considered as follows:

- Maps and plans in respect of capital applications (these maps and plans must clearly show the proposed measures)
- Other supporting information, which you feel is essential to the bid, must be kept to a minimum and be anonymised, where applicable.

Appraisal Process

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

38. Final decisions on funding will be made by the Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales.

39. The assessment criteria for the grants are available separately – see Grant Assessment Criteria 2021-22.

Submissions

Applications must be submitted by 29 January 2021

An electronic copy of each application must be submitted to the relevant Welsh Government contact listed below via transportplanning@gov.wales

No additional or revised information will be accepted after the above date, unless requested by the Welsh Government.

Welsh Government Contacts:

Local Authority	Welsh Government Contact
<u>North Wales</u> Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Isle of Anglesey, Wrexham <u>Mid Wales</u> Ceredigion, Powys	Carol Willgoose Principal Transport Planner transportplanning@gov.wales 03000 625168
<u>South West Wales</u> Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire, Swansea. <u>South East Wales Valleys</u> Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Torfaen	Corinna James Principal Transport Planner transportplanning@gov.wales 03000 625278
<u>South East Wales</u> Bridgend, Cardiff, Monmouthshire, Newport, Vale of Glamorgan	Alison Thomas Head of Policy Integration transportplanning@gov.wales 03000 256765
<u>All Wales</u> Ultra Low Emission Vehicles	Dafydd Munro Head of Transport Decarbonisation transportplanning@gov.wales 03000 259226