

CABINET MEETING

Agenda Item 93

Brighton & Hove City Council

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|-------------------------|---|--|---------------------|
| Subject: | Acceptance of CIVITAS funding and Stage 1 Research | | |
| Date of Meeting: | October 16th 2008 | | |
| Report of: | Director of Environment | | |
| Contact Officer: | Name: | Tom Campbell | Tel: 29-3328 |
| | E-mail: | Tom.Campbell@brighton-hove.gov.uk | |
| Key Decision: | Yes | CAB 5126 | |
| Wards Affected: | All | | |

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

Note: The special circumstances for non-compliance with Council Procedure Rule 7, Access to Information Rule 5 and Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act as amended (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five days in advance of the meeting) were to enable clarification of the financial and legal arrangements associated with European Union funded projects.

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The City Council has been successful in a funding bid with a consortium of 5 other European cities for European Union (EU) grant funding to deliver transport projects within Brighton & Hove that support or extend existing policy.
- 1.2 The project acronym CIVITAS (City-VITALity-Sustainability) is derived from a broad European policy theme that sets out to support Urban Transport through demonstration projects delivered in partnership.
- 1.3 The City Council was selected ahead of approximately 40 other cities who expressed an interest in the project.
- 1.4 This report seeks formal acceptance of the funding following the offer made by the EU in accordance with the approval deadline.
- 1.5 The CIVITAS project will encompass 3 stages:
 - Stage 1 – Acceptance of funding and preliminary design
 - Stage 2 – Approval of preliminary design by CMM and progress to
Stage 3
 - Stage 3 - Implementation

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Cabinet accepts the EU funding to initiate Stage 1 of the CIVITAS project, this will involve some research and feasibility design for the projects in the CIVITAS programme (see Appendix I of the report).

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 Following an initial expression of interest and recognition that Brighton & Hove already has in place an integrated transport planning approach to a range of policy areas, the City Council was accepted as part of the Consortium of European Cities to bid for European Union (CIVITAS) funding.
- 3.2 The CIVITAS project will provide the City Council with £2.2 million of additional grant funding that will enable the council to invest in a number of small-scale transport related projects over a four year period.
- 3.3 The funding will complement existing transport projects and policy commitments including the Council's Transport Strategy and Local Transport Plan. The projects in the programme include additional funding for existing Road Safety Campaigns and School Travel Planning but will also allow the City Council to explore and trial new projects it is currently unable to fund such as a pilot for 10 Electric Vehicle Charging points. A summary of all the projects is attached as Appendix 1 of the report.
- 3.4 The additional CIVITAS funding will further assist the Council to deliver existing and emerging local and national targets alongside its LTP targets.
- 3.5 CIVITAS is an integrated process, bringing together carefully selected cities to address problems and provide opportunities for research and development through delivery of a range of transport projects and further providing the opportunity to exchange expertise and experience with other cities.
- 3.6 The City Council has been selected along with 5 other cities which will make up the CIVITAS partnership. Alongside Brighton & Hove City Council, the partner cities are Aalborg (Denmark), San Sebastian (Spain), Iasi (Romania), Usti (Czech Republic), and Monza (Italy).
- 3.7 This is the first stage of the project and will involve research and appraisal of a number of transport projects (see appendix 1). This first stage will then inform which projects the council would like to take forward to detail design with a view to proceeding to a potential third stage for implementation. This report seeks approval to accept this additional grant funding and progress to Stage 1 after approximately 12 months, with the aim of returning to a future Cabinet for an update and further approval to progress to Stage 2.

- 3.8 When the programme commences, project specifics will be refined. For example, locations for the pilot of 10 Electric Vehicle Charging Points.
- 3.9 The Leader of the council will appoint a lead member to oversee the project and there will be regular reports back to Cabinet on progress.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 This report seeks approval of Stage 1, researching the projects, with the aim of returning to a future Cabinet for approval as to whether to progress to selected individual projects.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

The council will receive £2.2 million in grant funding if it participates in the four year CIVITAS project. Detailed costings covering the four years have been prepared for the individual schemes, in £'s sterling and converted into Euros. The funding will cover both the capital works and associated scheme design and on-costs meaning there are no additional cost implications for the council in accepting the funding. Much of the work undertaken will be supporting existing LTP schemes or transport policy. There is no requirement for the council to provide any additional funding on top of this.

When individual projects are brought forward for approval the detailed financial implications will be set out. It is not expected that there will be any ongoing capital or revenue commitments required to support the projects following the end of the grant funding.

The grant includes an agreed conversion rate for the currency which eliminates any exchange rate risk with the funding.

Finance Officer Consulted: Patrick Rice Date: 7 October 2008

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The legal implications associated with the programme are comparatively standard – the council will have a legal obligation to utilise funding in the manner and for the purposes set out in the grant agreement. The Council must take the Human Rights Act into account in respect of its actions but it is not considered that any individual's Human Rights Act rights would be adversely affected by the recommendations in this report.

Lawyer Consulted: Sonia Likhari Date: 18 September 2008

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Equalities implications will be assessed on a project-by-project basis, as project details are refined. The projects will also undergo an Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) in line with council policy. As a general principle, the programme will seek to reinforce equitable accessibility for all.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 Sustainability implications will be assessed on a project-by-project basis, as project details are refined. As a general principle, the programme will seek to improve opportunity of access to, and awareness of, sustainable transport choice. All the projects in the bid will assist in contributing the councils' sustainability objectives and assist in reducing the cities carbon footprint.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 The "Bike Off" project seeks to reduce bike theft in the city. Other projects do not have direct links to crime and disorder.

Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 If the council fails to deliver its projects or uses the funding for other uses without the EU's agreement the funding could be recalled along with a penalty sum. However, the likelihood of this is considered low, as the council does not intend to use funding for purposes other than for those intended, and the projects are relatively easy to deliver. The "learning" nature of the programme gives the council and other partners flexibility to trial unusual approaches – for example putting Electric Vehicle Charging point infrastructure in place to stimulate and "pump prime" demand.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The aims of the CIVITAS programme directly correlate with the aims of Brighton & Hove City Council as laid out in its Local Transport Plan and agreed policies. Many of the CIVITAS projects are extensions of work already being carried out by the Sustainable Transport Division.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 If the council does not accept the funding, it loses the opportunity to deliver the additional projects made possible through the bid.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Participation in the programme will bring an additional £2.2m of EU Funding into the city over the next four years. This will be used initially for feasibility studies then design and implementation of innovative sustainable transport projects.
- 7.2 Involvement in the programme will greatly assist the achievement of local and national policy targets in the field of transport and sustainability. The council will have the opportunity to share and benefit from best practice through knowledge sharing with other European cities.
- 7.3 Once a city has been a partner on one CIVITAS bid, it can lead on another. As such, participation in the CIVITAS programme opens up an opportunity for Brighton & Hove to access further funding through a future CIVITAS programme subject to cabinet approval.
- 7.4 The bid will enable the council to implement innovative transport projects that will benefit the City and further expand existing Local Transport Plan projects, such as School Travel Plans.
- 7.5 CIVITAS will also provide funding for resources to deliver the projects

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Summary of projects in the CIVITAS programme

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. n/a

Background Documents

1. n/a

Appendix 1 – CIVITAS Project Summary: Main Outputs

| Project | Outputs with CIVITAS |
|---|--|
| Electric Vehicle Charging Points | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install 10 charging points |
| Freight Quality Partnership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support freight deliveries into the city • Develop and implement a freight strategy with freight companies and neighbouring authorities |
| Emissions VMS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install VMS signs that display vehicle emissions at 3 sites |
| Clear Zone | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a clear zone. The location of which will be decided by the council in consultation with the public. This will be designed to reduce illegal parking and improve air quality. Linked to Freight management. |
| Personalised Travel Planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research ways to maximises PTP impact • Extend existing PTP project to an additional 5000 households, with associated marketing / incentives |
| School Travel Planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with 69 additional schools and nurseries to develop sustainable travel plans |
| Commuter Travel Plans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with an extra 20 employers to develop sustainable travel plans |
| Road Safety Campaign | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop road safety marketing campaign and implement hard measures at 2-4 new high risk accident sites |
| “Bike Off” | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research bicycle theft reduction methods • Implement measures to reduce bike theft in an extra 10 key locations |
| Car Sharing Improvements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out research to identify best additional car club locations in low income areas • Establish and market new car club / sharing locations |
| Cyclist Priority | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve cycle facilities at junctions without impacting on traffic. Small scale, potentially offering green phase time to cyclists. |
| Environmental Zone | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish freight management measures in the "clear zone" |
| Public Transport Information for visually impaired people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce 10 new talking bus stops & supply 200 additional hand held devices to visually impaired |
| Cycle Counter Displays | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce cycle counter displays at 3-5 locations |
| Personalised Travel Information Website | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and enhance the “journey on” website to support travel information of choice. |