

Somerset West and Taunton Council Community Infrastructure Levy

Infrastructure Projects Funding Application Form

1.1 Organisation / Company:	Somerset West and Taunton Council
1.2 Address:	The Deane House, Belvedere Rd, Taunton
1.3 Phone number:	07909007406
1.4 Email:	s.ellwood@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk
1.5 Contact Name	Sarah Ellwood

2.1 Project Title:	Future High Streets Fund – Active Travel
2.2 Location of Project:	Taunton

2.3 Description of the Project Proposal:

The project will create a new pedestrian & cycle route from Taunton Railway Station, through Firepool, along the River Tone, through Coal Orchard and onwards to Vivary Park. This key route will be integrated with a network of proposed cycle and pedestrian improvements linking with the three new garden communities in Taunton.

Five improvement schemes were identified from the Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) 2019 bid, the following table reflects the schemes currently being developed:

Scheme number	Scheme name	Scheme summary (original scope from 2019 application)
1	St James Street junction	upgraded crossing, footway widening, associated surface treatments
2	North St Roundabout	upgraded crossings and improvements for cycling
3	Upper High Street	upgraded crossing, footway widening, associated surface treatments
4	Cycle Parking	cycling 'hubs' in the town centre
5	Bridge over the River Tone	new steel truss bridge for cycles and walking, removal of bandstand and canopy plus additional public realm improvements for bandstand area.

As part of the 2019 application to MHCLG for the FHSF grant, SWT Council allocated two £500k CIL contributions as match funding. This would be used to enhance the FHSF allocation

for cycling and walking schemes in Taunton town centre within the larger FHSF project.

2.4 Identify any Project Partners & their role within the bid:

- Somerset County Council Highways Authority - providing financial contributions to maximise value of the schemes, plus provide approvals and permissions for scheme delivery
- Transport Consultants and Engineers - design and deliver the schemes (currently in procurement stage)
- MHCLG – FHSF grant provision
- Taunton Area Cycle Campaign – assistance with need and demand evidence

2.5 Indicate your organisations current commitment to the project:

Fully committed	X
Partly committed	
Uncommitted	

2.6 Please expand on your answer to 2.5 including any board/committee or Cabinet resolutions:

Executive Committee – 16th June 21

Full Council – 06 July 21

Approval to allocate £2.25m from the FHSF to the active travel elements of the project

3.1 Is the Project in the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan?

Yes			
No			

3.2 How will the proposal help address the demands of development in the area?

The project will create a new, green, high quality walk and cycleway: running from Taunton Railway Station to Vivary Park, that will join up the town, link together many of its key cultural and commercial assets, encourage the use of sustainable forms of transport, with links to the new garden communities and create a growth corridor that will support additional investment along its course.

Increasing cycling and walking in Taunton town centre will:

- Help us meet net zero targets
- Reduce traffic congestion
- Improve air quality

- Improve health and wellbeing
- Improve the opportunity for public realm activity
- Aligns to Garden Town strategy

3.3 Please provide details of any evidence which supports the bid from the local community

Around 1800 signatures (approx 1000 on paper, 800 online) have been obtained by Taunton Area Cycle Campaign's petition to provide more high-quality cycle routes in Taunton town centre: <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/taunton-area-says-yes-to-better-cycling-and-walking-provision>

4.1 Aside from funding is the project ready to commence?

Yes

4.2 If the answer to 4.1 is No, please list briefly the main constraints:

5.1 Please indicate the total cost of the project:

Approx £3.5m for the total project, depending on which schemes are delivered (dependent on budget)

5.2 How much funding does the project currently have?

75-100%

50-74%

25-49%

Up to 25%

None

Uncertain / unknown

X

5.3 Please provide a detailed summary of the total CIL funding required, broken down into required funding phases. Please also use this space to explain how non-CIL funding is obtained:

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Allocation Totals
FHSF	£750,000.00	£750,000.00	£757,000.00	£2,257,000.00
SCC contributions to crossings		£90,000.00		£90,000.00
SCC contributions to cycle parking (UNCONFIRMED)		£80,000.00		£80,000.00
CIL - Cycle and Pedestrian Improvements			£500,000.00	£500,000.00
CIL - Taunton Town Centre Regeneration			£500,000.00	£500,000.00
CIL - Taunton Unparished Area		£107,062.84		£107,062.84
Total				£3,534,062.84

5.4 Is there a related revenue spend (i.e. day-to-day running costs, maintenance etc.) associated with the Project? If so please set out the details: No			
5.5 Is the project expected to receive any S.106 funding?			No
5.6 Does the Project help secure the release of additional funding?		YES	
5.7 If Yes, please indicate what other priority projects would be delivered: The creation of additional cycle routes in the town centre will contribute towards the viability of the East St pedestrianisation project. Feasibility work and outline designs have been carried out; no budget allocated yet.			
6.1 What is the current delivery timescale for the Project:	Immediate		X
	Up to 5 years		
	5-10 years		
	10-15 years		
	More than 15 years		
6.2 Please provide further details on the programme for delivering the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design stages of the project began following procurement of consultants in early 2022 (and have developed considerably) Planning applications to be submitted summer 2022, procurement for contractor early 2023, construction throughout 2023 – early 2024 All MHCLG funding must be spent by March 2024 			
7.1 Please show what constraints (if any) apply to your project:			
Physical and environmental impacts e.g flood risk, contamination, topography, biodiversity, noise etc		No	
Approvals and licences e.g planning permissions	Yes		
Ownership, acquisition or compulsory purchase order issues		No	
Partnership and governance issues	Yes		
Dependency on other projects going ahead	Yes		
7.2 If the answer to any of the questions in 7.1 is Yes, please provide further details here, including the extent to which the issues concerned can be overcome by mitigation: Approvals and licences, e.g. planning permissions: planning permission and licenses to carry out works on public highways will be required Partnership and governance issues: we will need successful consultation to deliver some schemes Dependency on other projects going ahead: some elements of both the Firepool and Coal Orchard developments form some of the route. However, there are alternatives available if any issues are found.			

Section 8: Governance

8.1 Please indicate what governance structures you have in place for this project:

Approval for spending the grant from SWT Executive Committee – 16th June 2021 and Full Council – 06 July 2021

Responsibility of Cllr Marcus Kravis, Portfolio Holder for Asset Management and Economic Development & Cllr Mike Rigby, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation

Report Author: Joe Wharton, Assistant Director of Major and Special Projects

Section 9: Evidence

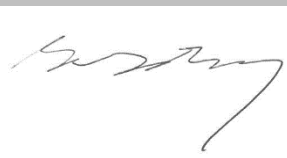
9.1 Have you provided evidence to support your application?

Yes

9.2 If the answer to 9.1 is Yes, please list the evidence included:

[Business case for original FHSF 2019 Submission](#)

Internal Office Use Only:

Approved by s151 Officer:	<i>Paul Fitzgerald</i> Confirmed by email	YES S	Date: 15/04/2022
Approved by Senior Responsible Officer: (Director)	<i>Chris Hall</i>	YES	Date: 19/04/2022
Approved by Planning Portfolio Holder:		YES S	Date: 28/04/2022
Circulated to Members for call in:		YES S <input type="radio"/>	NO <input type="radio"/>
Release of CIL funds approval process complete:		YES <input type="radio"/>	NO <input type="radio"/>

