

Corporate Framework Template

New Funding Opportunity or Bid for Funding

Lead Department:	Community and Environmental Services Directorate
Lead Officer:	John Blackledge

IMPORTANT NOTE: Where funding deadlines are extremely tight, this funding form can be circulated via email.

Overview	
Funding Agency:	Department for Transport (DfT)
Fund Title:	Funding for Innovation: Connected Vehicle Data
Potential amount:	<p>The council will be required to provide £5K match funding.</p> <p>With similar contributions from seven partner councils and a £170k private partner match from Gaist Solutions Limited, a total scheme budget of £310k would be available.</p>
Potential award length:	2018/19
Match/Leveraged funding:	<p>The fund criteria require a minimum 5% match funding contribution, although as is usual a higher contribution rate might increase the chances of a successful bid.</p> <p>It is suggested that the partnership public sector participants each make £5K available as match. Gaist Solutions Limited proposes to match the £100K DfT grant sought.</p> <p>Clearly the match offered is far in excess of that required, albeit this is offered in return for the maximum grant award available. Blackpool Council's contribution can be financed from the highways maintenance budget.</p>
Purpose of fund:	<p>Digital transformation is rapidly changing road travel and the way highway infrastructure is maintained. The DfT has recognised this and established this fund to assist highway authorities in making road transport increasingly Smart by employing data and connectivity to improve safety, efficiency, and to reduce emissions.</p> <p>Connected vehicles have internet/wi-fi access. Using this technology, vehicle mounted sensors are able to send and receive information, monitor the physical environment around them and interact with other vehicles and roadside infrastructure.</p> <p>The fund will provide a total £500,000 for local authority supported projects costing between £30,000 and £100,000, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate connected vehicle data's capability • Improve road condition and asset management data's quality • Provide the business case for a wider deployment among highway authorities • Enable smart asset strategies' development based on harvested intelligence • Enable private sector supply chain innovation.

	These aims are compatible with the council's in increasing highway infrastructure maintenance efficiency in the context of an ongoing resource deficit and repairs backlog, recognised within the Road Asset Management Strategy (RAMS). The strategic road network did not benefit from the Project 30 programme significantly and the council is now facing major issues in repairing and maintaining it adequately.
Who will bid:	The Highways and Traffic Services Team will coordinate and submit the bid, with the Transport Policy Team's assistance..
Timeline for Development	
Deadlines for bids:	The deadline for bid submission is 17.00 on 16 February 2018.
Expected Award Date:	The fund guidance e indicates that decisions on successful bids will be made as soon as possible. Decisions have to be available in good time for a scheme to be ready for a 2018/19 financial year implementation .
Links to Council Priorities and Plan	
Which Council Priorities does this bid for funding support?	The bid would support Priority One in particular – The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool.
Which strategies or plans will the funding help to deliver?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Plan • Local Plan Core Strategy • Local Transport Plan • Road Asset Management Strategy (RAMS)
Is there a broad vision for how the funding will be used? If so what is it?	<p>The scheme proposed will use high definition, vehicle mounted cameras to collect road and footway condition data. This will improve highway inspectors' productivity significantly, enable surface condition to be improved overall and reduce the burden of personal injury claims, releasing resources for further highway and footway investment.</p> <p>Digital inspector will be developed jointly between ten councils in partnership with three lead authorities, working in partnership with GAIST Solutions Limited, which will provide technical and development support.</p> <p>The partnership will provide vehicles to carry the cameras and will assemble a test programme. A data communication, collection, collation and storage system will be developed, with GAIST Solutions Limited providing the technical support necessary. This work and the results will be 'proof of concept' for the connected vehicles approach. Within Blackpool Council the system could potentially be piggy-backed onto the Bluetooth beacons sited as part of Blackpool Council's Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems project. Other partner authorities are looking at other methods to upload the inspection data.</p> <p>With the camera-equipped vehicles touring the councils' networks, the condition data 'pool' will be topped up regularly, avoiding defects emerging between inspection periods and causing damage before they can be remedied.</p> <p>Partner councils offer a variety of road and footway environments within which to test the hardware and software package developed. It is anticipated that all will adopt this highway condition monitoring method when it is tested and demonstrably reliable. The scheme will enable this</p>

	<p>concept to be rolled out to other local authorities and road maintenance organisations.</p> <p>Successfully deployed, this scheme will provide the data that the RAMS approach needs to achieve full efficiency, saving significant resources moving forward.</p>
Research and Evaluation	
Does the bid require evidence to support the submission? Please describe:	<p>The following are required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of financial risk • A Quantified Risk Assessment covering the top five concerns • The S.151 Officer's confirmation that adequate assurance systems are in place.
Are there any expected evaluation requirements? Please provide details:	<p>DfT states that it intends to evaluate the schemes, requiring bidders to commit to supporting evaluation activities. There is a requirement to provide information and a position on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether the proposal was delivered to cost, on schedule and were any barriers to delivery encountered? • Whether the technology implemented worked as intended? • Whether there is confidence in the data collected? • How the data has been used and possible future uses for it. <p>This is a standard requirement for schemes of this nature. The Transport Policy Team has collated and submitted newsletters and update reports for previous such schemes.</p>
Resources	
How will matched or in kind funding be delivered?	<p>The fund guidance states: 'To ensure strong local commitment, promoters should contribute at least 5% of total scheme costs for schemes.'</p> <p>The match funding proposed consists of a £5K contribution from each of the partner councils (eight partner authorities = £40k). Gaist Solutions Limited has committed to match fund the DfT allocation therefore a total £210K would be available, as described above.</p> <p>In total 150% match is offered for £100K DfT grant.</p> <p>Blackpool Council's contribution would come from the highways maintenance budget, being recouped from the efficiencies the scheme is forecast to achieve.</p>
What impact will developing the bid have on resources?	<p>The Highways and Traffic Services Team has developed this bid in partnership with framework contractors Gaist Solutions Limited, with the Transport Policy Team's assistance. Thus there has been no impact on resources beyond these teams' remit to access additional resources where available and seek resource efficient working methods.</p>
Is there any impact on wider resources e.g. HR, Finance teams?	<p>Input and expertise will be required from Highways and Traffic Services, who in turn will rely on third parties with specialist knowledge.</p> <p>In the event of a successful bid, Highways and Traffic Services have the</p>

resources available to commission and manage the project, calling on specialist engineering firms to design and implement the remedial works.

The bid's claims and other financial arrangements will be managed within the road asset management monitoring programme.

Transport Policy Team will collate any update and evaluation reports that are required.