North Yorkshire Sport.

YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY | DAVID SKAITH MAYOR

Mayor's Active Travel Fund Webinar

Tue 10th March 26

Introductions

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What we will cover

- Background to the fund
- Criteria and mechanics of the fund
- Ingredients of a strong application
- Question and Answer session

North Yorkshire Sport (NYS) – about us

- Charity covering York and North Yorkshire.
- Reduce inequalities through movement, activity and sport.
- Part of a national infrastructure of Active Partnerships working alongside Sport England.
- Previous investment portfolios (E.g. UKSPF, Together Fund, Movement, ACTIVITY & Sport Fund)
- www.northyorkshiresport.co.uk/impact

Overview – Active Travel Fund

- Established by Mayor Skaith in Summer 2025 – Launched 25th February
- Focus on Healthy, Thriving Communities as part of the Moving Forward campaign
- NYS contracted to develop and manage the Fund on behalf of York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority (Feb 26)
- Covers activity and organisations in York and North Yorkshire https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council
- Delivery Window runs from **June 2026 to January 2028 (20 months)**
- The fund seeks to increase active travel participation and behavioural change in York and North Yorkshire, providing additional funding to deliver more schemes and engagement
- Its envisaged that the fund will enable smaller-scale infrastructure, revenue or capital projects as well as behavioural change initiatives

Structure of the fund

Total value of investment through **Moving Forward:** £7m

Total value of investment through **Active Travel Fund:** £4m

Total value of investment through **Active Travel Fund (Open)**, managed by North Yorkshire Sport: £1m

Purpose

- To increase active travel participation in the York and North Yorkshire region

Grant Range

- £5,000 to £100,000 per project (inc of VAT)

Grant Type

- Capital and Revenue

Applicants

- Any organisation with a governing document (preference for non-profit making) can apply with partnerships and consortiums encouraged)

Eligible Projects for Funding

- **Behaviour change initiatives** such as cycle training, social prescribing and community bike schemes, walking groups, marketing campaigns and travel plans
- **Behaviour change initiatives** linked to new or existing physical infrastructure
- Projects that commence new or extended use of cycle parking, cycle hubs and cycle hangers that meet best practice standards (as above) for modern designs
- Projects that support demonstratable engagement campaigns and offer sustainable longer-term take-up and engagement
- Improved access to public transport through active travel connections
- Safer and more inclusive environments for underrepresented groups

Funding Exceptions

- **Costs related to already running/funded projects** (Business as Usual or already planned to be introduced in 2025-2028)
- Costs related to other works outside of the project being funded
- Purchase of equipment not related to this fund
- Routine or already planned maintenance
- Funding of projects already planned (through planning permission route) with a funded route already agreed
- Projects exceeding the upper limit of this fund, where match funding will not cover the required additional funding.
- Match funding identified from any other CA source.

Operating Principle

To fund the best ideas, not just the best applications

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Specific Capital Guidance

Capital is typically investment in fixed assets which might include building creation or refurbishment projects, skateparks, pump tracks or developing sports pitches.

EG: Difference between a portable and fixed floodlights.

Specific Capital Guidance - Considerations

Be realistic about what you can achieve – Do you have the knowledge, skills and experience at your disposal and can it be delivered within the required timeframe?
Be prepared to think differently – Is what you are proposing the best way of delivering the outcome you want/need?
Security of Tenure – Do you own the freehold to the site where the development will take place, or have you secured a lease for at least 10-years? If you don't own the site or hold a lease, can you attain this within the project timescale?
Planning Permission – Does the project need planning permission and if so a) have you already achieved it or b) if you haven't achieved it, how confident planning permission can be achieved within the required timeframe?
Match funding – Have you attained all the match funding you need for the project, and if not, will you have attained it within the required timeframe, e.g. by the time of the funding panel?
Legal structure – If you are an unincorporated organisation, is your legal structure appropriate for taking on an asset? If unincorporated, are you aware of how factors such as disputes with contractors could impact Trustees?
VAT – If you are not VAT registered you will incur VAT but will not be able to recover it. Is a partner organisation VAT registered, and can they be the joint applicant?
Risks and Contingency – What happens if costs go up? Can you still deliver the project?
National Governing Body input– Have you consulted the NGB and attained their support for your project?

Match Funding

Revenue and Capital Funds

The following guidelines are in place for capital development.

1. Projects under £30,000 will NOT require to demonstrate match funding We expect to see the following minimum levels of match funding:

2. For projects over £30,000, 10% match funding will be required

For example, a project seeking a grant of £100,000 would be expected to contribute 10% of this value i.e. £10,000 in addition to the grant (making the total value of the project to be £110,000 or more .

All applications must demonstrate they are inclusive of non-recoverable VAT. Recoverable VAT does not need to be included.

Output and Outcomes

Outputs: Projects must deliver direct improvements in the walking, wheeling, or cycling environment. All projects must be able to demonstrate the baseline engagement they are working from.

Projects should clearly outline how they will contribute to:

- **Number of people actively engaging in active travel uptake** (this must demonstrate new engagement)
- **Number of people participating in behavioural change initiatives** (existing and new demonstrated)
- **Number of accessibility improvements to improve safety**
- **Number of infrastructure improvements to enhance local connectivity and reduce emissions.**

Output and Outcomes

Outcomes:

Beyond site-specific benefits, projects should demonstrate potential to catalyse wider regional change in the promotion and delivery of active travel.

This could include:

- Sharing learning with other localities across York and North Yorkshire
- Piloting innovative or underused design approaches, delivery models, or community engagement methods
- Supporting data collection and monitoring to inform future investment decisions
- Creating replicable approaches that enable future scheme development elsewhere in the region
- Strengthen the ability of communities, businesses and other organisations to take up active travel initiatives.

What makes a strong application?

- Ensuring your project is eligible for *this* fund.
- Understand the need from your community.
- Demonstrate a strong understanding and consideration of legacy and sustainability
- Utilise partnerships and embed them into your delivery.

What makes a strong application?

Please describe what you are looking to achieve *

Please provide some headline detail **(maximum 200 words)** describing the difference that will be made as a result of this funding?

What evidence do you have to show there is a need and demand for this project? *

Please ensure that you have identified and provide evidence. A strong answer will respond to the voice of the people that you are seeking to engage.

Need vs Demand

Need = gaps and inequalities

Examples include:

- Public health data
- Deprivation data
- Sport England Active Lives data
- Community survey
- Active Travel England data

Example: Place A has a high % of diagnosis of dementia

Demand = interest and readiness

Examples include:

- Waiting lists
- Partnerships with other organisations
- Co-design by targeted groups

Example: A focus group with a dementia café group determined an interest in a weekly walking group

💡 **Why Both Matter**

• Need shows where inequalities lie – who should be active but isn't.
• Demand shows where motivation exists – who's ready to engage.
• The sweet spot for investment is where *high need* meets *growing demand*.

✅ **Key takeaway:**

"Need = who should benefit most. Demand = who is ready to engage now."
Balance the two — meet demand where it exists, and create demand where need is greatest.

Applications required to

- Explain and evidence the need,
- Explain and evidence the strategic fit with the programme objectives,
- Explain and evidence the positive impact the project will have and explain how measurable outputs and outcomes will be achieved,
- Provide an accurate and reasonable breakdown of project costs,
- Explain how the project will be deliverable in within the timeframe,
- Explain who will be managing the project and track record of delivery.

What may stop a project from being funded?

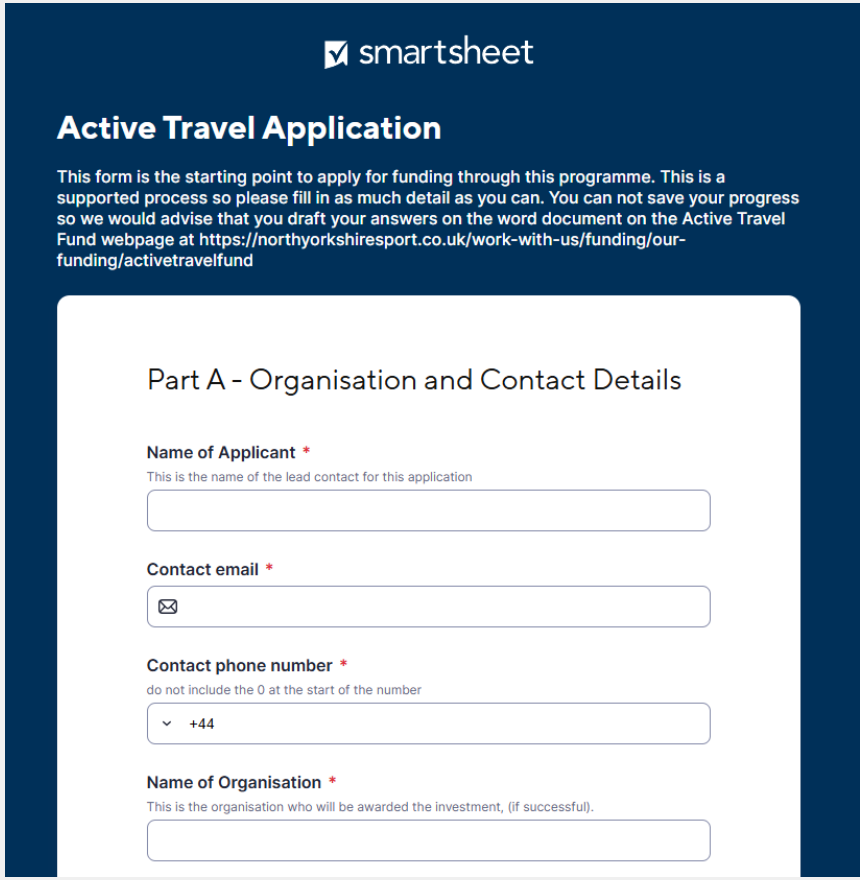
- Core costs/management fees;
- Outside of York and North Yorkshire https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council
- Activities that replace other funding or should be funded elsewhere (E.g. already planned school Bikeability provision via PE Premium);
- Bid writers/consultancy fees;
- Projects that have already started;
- Insufficient consultation and evidence;
- Poor value for money;
- Blindly landing products in places without community backing;
- Lack of alignment to the priorities of the fund, or for ineligible activities;

What support is available?

- Guidance document on the website
- grants@northyorkshiresport.co.uk contact email
- FAQ's will be published on the website
- Ask for support with connections to partners
- Be honest about development needs (e.g. safeguarding, governance etc) – we will take a supportive view.

Process of applying

- Online form (accompanying word document)
- Due diligence process
- Eligible applications will be appraised
- Appraisal scoring and applications will be submitted to an independent panel for recommendation
- All decisions signed off by York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority
- Decisions will be communicated to applicants
- If applicants are successful, the contracting process to create a grant funding agreement will begin
- Once funding agreements have been finalised and signed, project delivery can begin.
- Please note that decisions cannot be appealed.



Timescales

Milestone	Date
Application window opens	25 February 2026
Deadline for application submissions	10 April 2026
Appraisal and Decision making	April - May 2026
Notification and contracting	May 2026
Delivery Period	June 2026 – January 2028
Monitoring	June 2026 onwards
Evaluation Reporting	January 2028 onwards

Questions

Thank you

North Yorkshire Sport.

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