



Department
for Transport

Report by the Secretary of State for Transport on the use of his powers under section 70 of the Charities Act 2006

January 2016

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Presented to Parliament pursuant to section 70 of the Charities Act 2006

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Executive summary

- 1 This report is presented pursuant to the Charities Act 2006, section 70, which enables a Minister "...to provide financial assistance to charitable, benevolent or philanthropic institutions in respect of any of the institution's activities which directly or indirectly benefit the whole or any part of England."
- 2 Transport investment helps make journeys safer and more secure, and boosts Britain's productivity, which is essential to delivering long-term economic growth and making sure that the benefits of recovery are shared by all.
- 3 Many of the transport solutions needed in the country can be easily delivered by local organisations with specialised and local expertise. The Department will always seek to use the best placed organisation to deliver on its objectives, whether in a local or wider context.
- 4 This report features six projects in which the Department invested in 2014/15. Each were discrete schemes helping to deliver on a number of Departmental objectives in a local, sustainable transport and maritime context. The projects are as follows:
 - a) Big Bike Revival scheme - £240,000 granted to encourage people to use their bikes instead of cars, and £830,000 to develop, run and evaluate similar schemes more widely.
 - b) ATC scoping study - £89,300 was invested in this project to build expert stakeholder advice into the formulation of policies to implement the Cycling Delivery Plan (now to feed into the Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy).
 - c) CTC Android App for 'Fill that Hole' project - £30,000 to develop an app for undertaking website and app improvements, including the development of an Android app.
 - d) Walk to School project - £1,068,238 to help encourage more children to walk to school and support government ambitions to increase walking levels.
 - e) Sustainable Transport Delivery Excellence project - £191,000 to improve the capacity of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and their local authority partners to respectively act as clients and deliver projects funded from the Local Growth Fund and the Local Sustainable Transport Fund.
 - f) The Inland / inshore safety boat grant fund - £661,833 - was awarded to 18 charities under the Act as part of a 5-year Government grant scheme providing £1 million a year to support inland and inshore safety boat charities across the UK involved in search and rescue operations. Other grants were made in respect of activities not related to England, but these are outside the scope of this report.

1. About the charities awarded funding in 2014/15

The charities and a summary of their objectives are listed below.

- 1.1 Sustrans is a UK charity whose main aims are to enable people to travel by foot, bike or public transport for more of the journeys made every day. They are coordinators of the National Cycle Network which is now over 13,500 miles and is within one mile of just over 60% of the population.
- 1.2 Living Streets is a national charity that campaigns for creating safe, accessible, attractive and enjoyable streets where people want to walk. Strategically, it sees itself as a strong voice for pedestrians that influences decision makers and campaigns for change.
- 1.3 CTC's vision is of a healthier, happier and cleaner world. They wish people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to be able to cycle safely, easily and enjoyably. CTC, the national cycling charity has championed the cause of cycling for well over a century. CTC promotes all forms of cycling, protect the interests of existing and would-be cyclists, and inspire people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to discover the joys of cycling. Their activities aim to reflect the commitment of their members, volunteers and partners to make cycling mainstream and make a lasting difference to the lives of individuals and communities.
- 1.4 A total of 18 charities who operate inland/inshore safety boats were awarded grant funding under the Act in January 2015 as part of the 2014/15 round of the inland/inshore safety boat grant fund. These volunteer, community-based groups respond in emergencies and severe weather to rescue those in danger during flooding, and on lakes, rivers as well as inshore waters. These Charities provide a vital service, often working with blue-light services during search and rescue operations. They also contribute to the UK's overall flood response capability.
- 1.5 The Active Travel Consortium (ATC) is made up of British Cycling, CTC, Living Streets, the London Cycling Campaign, National Obesity Forum, The Ramblers Association, Sustrans, Campaign for Better Transport, UK Health Forum and Walk England. For the ATC Scoping Study, Sustrans acted as budget holder. Sustrans aims as an organisation are as mentioned above.

2. Details of projects delivered by charities in 2014/15

Big Bike Revival

2.1 The objective was to pilot an intervention to encourage people who own a cycle but are not making use of it. The pilot aimed to help these people to use their cycle instead of a car for short trips.

2.2 To do this, the CTC, the national cycling charity, devised 'The Big Bike Revival'; a social marketing programme that culminated in a fixed duration event that presented members of the public with an opportunity to:

- Fix a cycle so it can start to be used and learn how to maintain it;
- Trade a cycle for one better suited to individual needs and donate surplus cycles;
- Learn where best to cycle in their local area and discover local cycling activity;
- Receive cycle training to increase confidence in cycling on the road.

2.3 The CTC received £240,000 in October 2014 and £830,000 in March 2015 of Department for Transport funding to develop, run and evaluate wider schemes as part of this project.

2.4 A total of 10 established bike re-cycle centres were supported to run events and offer their services during school half-term week (between 25 and 31 October 2014) in West Yorkshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside.

ATC Scoping Study

2.5 In December 2014, following consultation on a draft Cycling Delivery Plan (CDP), the Active Travel Consortium (ATC)* was awarded £89,300 to scope out a long-term investment programme for cycling and walking. The original purpose was to build expert stakeholder advice into the formulation of policies to implement the CDP. During the course of the study, an amendment was made to the Infrastructure Bill placing a duty on the Secretary of State to produce a Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (CWIS). This amendment was accepted, the Bill received Royal Assent in February and the CWIS Section was commenced in July 2015.

2.6 As a consequence, the ATC study is now one of several pieces of analysis being used to help develop policies for the CWIS.

"Fill that Hole" App

2.7 CTC was granted £30k in June 2014 funding to undertake website and app improvements, and the development of an Android app that allows smart phone users to report potholes to their councils.

2.8 Practical delivery of the scheme took place in 2014/15. CTC received funding in June 2014 and the app was made compatible with Android devices in 2014/15.

2.9 The announcement on the "Fill That Hole" project can be found at the link below:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-backs-smartphone-app-to-pinpoint-potholes>

Walk to School

2.10 Living Streets was awarded a sum of £1,068,238 in March 2015 to help encourage more children to walk to school and support government ambitions to increase walking levels. The project will focus on short journeys to school and the "walkable components" of longer journeys (such as those by rail or bus) because these are the journeys that most people could walk but don't walk.

Living Streets is working intensively with schools and Local Authorities to:

- Significantly raise walk-to-school rates
- Increase road capacity at peak times around identified pinch points
- Reduce journey times during the morning peak time

This is being achieved through:

1. Encouraging increased walking in 200 primary schools and 45 secondary schools.
2. Bringing about over 5 million new walking trips and a total reduction in car kilometres of over 1.5 million kilometres.
3. Identifying local barriers to walking, and how these can be overcome, with 54 schools – influencing key capital spend in target areas, as well as community-led solutions. Physical improvements will be implemented in nine locations.

Delivery on this project will take place in 2015/16.

Sustainable Transport Delivery Excellence Programme

2.11 The purpose of this project was to improve the capacity of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and their local authority partners to respectively act as clients and deliver projects funded from the Local Growth Fund and the Local Sustainable Transport Fund. Sustrans, as budget holder for the Active Travel Consortium, received £191,000 in March 2015 to contribute to delivery of this project.

2.12 Specifically, whilst requests for support from LEPs varied, the top 4 most themes for requests for advice were:

- Advice on how walking and/or cycling and/or public transport interventions can help deliver local economic ambitions and support other elements of proposed investment within Strategic Economic Plans (requested by 72% of LEPs engaged with the programme).
- Advice/support on design, development and management of high quality on and off-road infrastructure for cycling, walking and public transport (networks, on and off-road routes, links to key destinations such as schools, workplaces, hospitals, shops) (68%)
- Advice on area-wide strategies and action plans for increasing active travel (or cycling or walking or public transport specifically) (64%)
- Advice on monitoring and evaluating the economic and other benefits from walking, cycling and public transport interventions (56%).

2.13 The programme has supported the development of pipeline projects and lessons have also been learned enabling the identification of a possible future programme.

Inland/inshore safety boat grant fund 2014/15

2.14 The 2014 budget included a statement announcing that the Government would “introduce a 5-year grant of £1 million per year for inland safety boat charities across the UK”. The first round of grant awards ran in 2014/15. Applications were invited from established charitable organisations which already operated inshore rescue boats for the purchase of assets or training that would support their operations.

2.15 Applications were assessed against a set criteria by an expert panel comprising officials from the DfT, CLG, Defra and HMT, as well as expert advisers from the RNLI, MCA and the Royal Yachting Association, and representatives from the devolved administrations. The panel took into account factors including how the asset or training would be used to support lifesaving, search and rescue operations and flood response capability on a local and national basis; whether there would be wider community benefits; and how the asset and knowledge/skills from training would be sustained into the future. Following considerations by the panel, £650,000 was awarded to 18 charities operating in England, Wales and Scotland.

2.16 Many charities who received grant funding invested in capital equipment (e.g. lifeboats, flood rafts or off road vehicles), which have already been used in search and rescue operations, and in some cases to life-saving effect. Other charities used their grant awards for maintenance of their existing equipment, or the purchasing of new equipment for crews, such as personal protective equipment. These are also actively being used during rescue operations.

2.17 The grant scheme will continue into the 2015/16 financial year when the bid process will be repeated. Lessons learned from the first grant round have been reflected in the 2015/16 scheme.

3. Further information

3.1 The announcement and “Fill That Hole” can be found at the link provided below: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-backs-smartphone-app-to-pinpoint-potholes>

3.2 The announcement on recipients of the 2014/15 inland/inshore safety boat grant fund can be found at the link below: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/5-million-boost-for-water-rescue-charities>. This includes details of the first 20 recipients of grant fund, including those made using powers other than those in the Charities Act 2006.

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