



Widening Participation Fund

Guidance for Applicants

Background

The Bikeability Trust exists to strengthen Bikeability, promote its benefits and maximise its impact. The Trust distributes grant funding on behalf of the Department for Transport to fund Bikeability training for children in England only, with the exception of the London Boroughs, which are funded by Transport for London.

As a part of the Bikeability Trust's mission on advancing the education of cycling, some restricted income generated by the Trust is held in an Innovation Fund. Two key objectives of this fund are as follows;

- *Piloting new forms of Bikeability training with a focus on reaching every child*
- *Piloting initiatives that remove barriers to access to participating in Bikeability*

Within the 'Gear Change' strategy document the Prime Minister has stated his ambition to offer cycle training to every child who wants it. In 2020 The Bikeability Trust released funding from the Innovation Fund for projects supporting Children with Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities. However, we know from anecdotal evidence and through industry experience, that many other children also miss out on receiving Bikeability training. This could be through systemic or cultural barriers, or due to individual circumstances.

In line with the objectives of the Innovation Fund, The Trust would now like to try and address this by looking *at widening participation* and overcoming the barriers that these children have in accessing cycle training.

The Department for Transport has released a minimum of £1 million into a new Widening Participation Fund to develop pilot projects that target children who do not take part in Bikeability.

The Trust is now launching this fund and is looking to receive bids from all organisations who can demonstrate the capability to address the fund criteria. As with our SEND project, we fully expect applications for this funding to exceed the amount we have available. Bids will be considered and scored by the Board Members as detailed below.



Objectives of the Fund

The aim of the Widening Participation Fund is to identify those children who don't currently access Bikeability, look at the barriers to uptake and seek ways to resolve these. This will then help The Trust and the DfT understand how to create a programme that reaches every child.

The Trust does not wish to place too many constraints on what we hope will be truly innovative proposals. However, following consultations with stakeholders, four broad areas have been identified that we feel need to be highlighted.

These are as follows (and in no particular order)

- *Lower take up in areas of deprivation*
- *Low take up amongst specific ethnic backgrounds*
- *Low delivery of Level 3 Training*
- *Low participation amongst Female teenagers*

Please submit your proposals to the Trust showing how you plan to overcome barriers and increase participation within these key areas. Whilst these areas are of highest importance, we will also consider alternative bids if you have evidence to show that there are children with other circumstances that are missing out on Bikeability.

We are looking for solutions that can help all children access Bikeability Training. In order to evidence this, applications must clearly answer the following questions;

1. Which children are currently missing out being able to access Bikeability Training? What do you see as being the biggest issue regarding this in your area?
2. Why do you think this is? What are the barriers?
3. What anecdotal or hard evidence can you provide?
4. How do you intend to address these problems and overcome these barriers?
5. What will be the expected outcomes at the end of the project?
6. How can this project provide evidence of a behaviour change with active travel?
7. How could this be scaled up/rolled out to other groups/areas?
8. How and with whom will you work in partnership to avoid duplication?
9. What funding do you need to achieve this? Can you provide funding from any other sources?
10. How will this help create evidence on the costs of interventions with these groups of children?
11. What timeline do you need to achieve the above?

Please do be creative and don't be afraid to think outside of our current delivery models. If you already have models or programmes that have translatable learning, and currently achieve wider than average participation rates among those children who are underrepresented nationally, then we want to hear from you too. We will consider any bids that can influence future Bikeability delivery.



Standardised Evaluation of Pilot Projects

The Trust will be working with evaluation specialists and developing a standardised evaluation model for all pilot projects. Compiling evidence is a vital part of the process, this will be used in future funding proposals to support these groups and continue to widen participation.

It is anticipated that this will be a mix of qualitative and quantitative research. Project leads will be responsible for ensuring it is distributed and responded to by those taking part in the pilots. It will be a condition of funding that all projects sign up to this evaluation process.

Eligibility and Bidding Process

The Widening Participation fund is open to all and we would like to invite applications from any organisation that can help us address these issues. However, please note that any cycle instruction **must** be undertaken by qualified National Standards Instructors who are registered with the Bikeability Trust, and any Balance bike training by those who have completed the Bikeability Balance Training.

The spend for the £1 million plus fund will be overseen by the Innovation Fund Project Board and approved by the Department for Transport. All applications received by the deadline will be considered and scored by the Board Members on the following criteria;

- Meeting the objectives of the Widening Participation Fund
- Overcoming barriers to participation
- Showing an innovative approach to delivery
- Working in partnership
- Providing longer term impact – embedding behavior change
- Providing evidence on the cost of delivering Bikeability to every child
- Demonstrating value for money
- Ability to be replicated/scaled up

All bids up to a maximum of £75K will be considered by the board. Larger bids may be taken into consideration by exception if the board is in agreement.

The Project Board will recommend to DfT which applications they believe should receive funding. Once these have final approval feedback will be available to all applicants. Project leads for the successful pilots will then work with The Bikeability Trust's Innovation Officer to deliver the project within the timeline below.



Timescales

The timescales are indicated below but may be subject to change if COVID restrictions are put in place again:

Date	Activity
3 rd Sep 2021	Communication on fund to Grant Recipients and Training Providers that bidding round opens
29 th Oct 2021	Bids returned to Bikeability Trust by 5pm
22 nd Nov 2021	Innovation Fund Project Board decision making
10 th Dec 2021	Communication to successful bids
23 rd Dec 2021	Award Letters returned with signed terms
5 th Sep 2022	Completion of projects and evaluation

To apply for this funding then please complete the attached Application form and return to innovationfund@bikeabilitytrust.org by 5pm on 29th October 2021