

20 January 2012

Better Bus Area (BBA) Fund - Further Q&A

Do we have to complete our bid on the BBA application form provided by DfT?

Yes, your bid must be submitted on the BBA application form which can be downloaded here <http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/better-bus-areas-fund/>. Your bid should be no longer than 20 pages.

There are areas within our authority with populations of over 25,000 but they are not listed on the FORGE area list. Should we apply?

Please provide up to date population estimates. Note that evidence of proposed benefits will need to be competitive alongside bids from large urban areas.

Are we able to use LSTF money as match funding in our BBA bid?

No.

What kind of evidence do you need that local bus operators are partners in a proposal?

Strong bids will demonstrate clearly throughout the application form exactly what support bus operator(s) are providing.

We subsidise and run some of our own bus routes, would the section of the council who run this count as a bus operator who could support the bid, or does all bus operator support have to be from commercial operators?

For the BBA fund, we would expect the bus operator you are in partnership with to be operating on a commercial basis. This is particularly important since the main objective of the BBA fund is to help grow the economy, as well as cut carbon. If your BBA proposal affects routes run by your own council (and therefore one of your key bus operator partners is effectively your own council) then it would be appropriate to get the full input of that part of the council as well as other key bus operators, but you would need to make a strong case for economic growth and cutting carbon if you want your bid to be competitive against other bids in partnership with commercial operators.

Does a proposal have to include a variety of measures or could it be limited to just one large project?

Either

Should my bid concentrate on just one corridor?

Not necessarily. For example, multi-operator ticketing schemes and bus information projects are encouraged in the BBA guidance but they are unlikely to concentrate on just one corridor.

Can a local authority include the purchase of hybrid or low carbon buses in their bid?

You can include procuring new vehicles in your BBA bid though procurement of hybrid or other low carbon buses should be through the Green Bus Fund (GBF). A strong BBA bid for buying new buses would have to contain robust evidence of the relevant benefits that can be realised from purchasing the vehicles.

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