

BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has been included in the relevant Forward Plan

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PLACE TO CABINET ON 14 JULY 2021

TRANSFORMING CITIES FUND (TCF) and ACTIVE TRAVEL (AT) UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with:

- An update on the current Transforming Cities Fund Programme (TCF); where over £13m has been awarded and the recent submission of the Outline Business Cases (OBC) detailed in section 7 below as approved at the Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) meeting on 22 March 2021.
- An update on the Active Travel Fund Programme (AT); where over £1m has been awarded

1.2 And to seek Cabinet approval for the following:

- Acceptance of grant funding from Sheffield City Region (SCR) to enable the Council to commence detailed design work; submit all relevant planning applications; and to go out to tender to procure the works as outlined in section 7 below.
- Any necessary permissions to enable the delivery of the TCF Programme and AT Programme aligning with the SCR guidance.
- Prepare and progress any necessary statutory procedures required to develop and deliver the proposed work packages in line with SCR guidance

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 **Notes the progress on the delivery of the approved Transforming Cities Programme and Active Travel Programme as outlined in section 7 below.**
- 2.2 **Authorises the continued development of the individual Work Packages and progression of the schemes to ensure that all external grant funding is secured, whilst ensuring that the overall aims and objectives of the scheme are achieved.**

- 2.3 **Note the proposed dates for submission of Outline Business Cases (OBC) and Full Business Cases (FBC) for the individual Work Packages.**
- 2.4 **Approves acceptance of grant funding from Sheffield City Region totalling £1.367m (Section 7 refers) to contribute towards the development of TCF programme business cases.**
- 2.5 **Cabinet approves acceptance of grant funding from Sheffield City Region totalling £0.023m (Section 7 refers) to contribute towards the development of the AT programme business cases.**
- 2.6 **That Cabinet approves the release of the capital resources (as detailed in Section 7 and Appendix A) required to fund the development of the OBC and FBC to progress through to delivery stage of the work packages.**
- 2.7 **The Executive Director of Place be authorised to undertake all necessary steps to ensure continued delivery of the TCF and AT programme.**
- 2.8 **The Service Director of Finance in consultation with the Executive Director of Place be authorised to negotiate the terms and conditions of, and final approval of the SCR Grant funding agreements, for the delivery of the TCF and AT programme.**

3. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To ensure that Cabinet remains informed on the progress of the work on delivering the Transforming Cities Fund and Active Travel Fund schemes and to ensure that funds are accepted to enable the work to continue in a timely manner.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Transforming Cities Fund

- 4.1 In November 2019 a Strategic Outline Business Case (the "SOBC") was submitted to the DfT on behalf of the 4 Local Authority's and the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive to deliver a series of interventions that contribute towards the SCR's objective to improve intra-city region connections that either:
 - i) connect areas of deprivation/transport poverty to areas of economic opportunity by public transport and active travel modes; or
 - (ii) seek to achieve significant mode shift away from the private car on key corridors and in areas where future growth ambitions and improved health and air quality would otherwise be compromised
- 4.2 On 23rd March 2020 the DfT agreed funding of £166m regionally through the SCR to deliver the TCF programme. The SCR submitted an indicative list of projects in April 2020 that aligned with the new funding offer. Over £13m was awarded to Barnsley.
- 4.3 On 3rd July 2020 the SCR agreed payment of Grant funding, subject to the terms and conditions of the Grant Letter, totalling £0.147m to facilitate the project development works required to submit the OBC's for the 3 work packages:

- A61 Active Travel Scheme – Barnsley- Royston (£0.093m)
- A635 Active Travel Scheme (£0.043m)
- Station Access Improvements (£0.011m)

4.4 On 22nd March 2021 the OBC's for the A61 and A635 were approved at the MCA and agreed grant funding, subject to the terms and conditions of the Grant Letter, totalling £1.261m to facilitate the project development works required to submit the FBC's for the 2 work packages:

- A61 Active Travel Scheme – Barnsley- Royston (£0.897m)
- A635 Active Travel Scheme (£0.364m)

4.5 Through discussions with the SCR, a change request was submitted to include a further 2 railway stations, namely Elsecar and Darton, to the Station Access Improvement work package. This will go to the MCA for approval to FBC in June 2021.

Through discussions with the SCR, Expressions of Interest have been submitted and grant funding approved at the March MCA totalling £0.107m to develop a further 5 work packages to OBC:

- River Dearne Long Route (£0.010m)
- Darton Active Travel Route (£0.032m)
- Darton Active Travel Hub (£0.006m)
- Goldthorpe Active Travel Hub (£0.10m)
- Town Centre Active Travel Hub (£0.48m)

4.6 OBC's for River Dearne Long Route and the Darton Active Travel Route were submitted on 19th April 2021, with an expected decision to progress to FBC from the MCA in July 2021.

OBC's for the three Active Travel Hubs at Darton, Goldthorpe and the Town Centre are proposed to be submitted in June 2021.

Active Travel Fund

4.7 In November 2020 following a successful bid by the Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) to the Department for Transport's Active Travel Fund. South Yorkshire was awarded a further £5.46million to be spent to improve walking and cycling routes in South Yorkshire and create safer, less polluted neighbourhoods for residents to live and work.

The funding will be used to build safe cycle routes, which are separated from cars, to connect communities with shops and workplaces, and prevent rat-running through residential areas to improve air quality and safety for residents.

4.8 Two schemes which meet the Department for Transport criteria were submitted to the Active Travel Fund; Elsecar to CortonWood and Goldthorpe Quiet Streets, totalling over £1m.

The two schemes have been approved by the MCA and grant funding awarded totalling £0.23m detailed below to facilitate the development to OBC:

- £0.012m Elsecar to CortonWood
- £0.011m Goldthorpe Quiet Streets

4.9 The Outline Businesses cases were submitted on 19th April 2021 with an expected decision from the Transport Executive Board in June 2021.

5. PROGRAMME OF WORK

5.1 Within the overall programme for the schemes there are three key projects which will need to be progressed concurrently, each with a strict timetable for delivery:

- The design, procurement and tender process
- The submission of the Planning Application
- The submission of the Full Business Case to the SCR

5.2 Design, Procurement and tender process for the Schemes

An outline design has been prepared and work on the detail design has commenced. This work will include widening / improving existing routes, the provision of new / improved crossing facilities, drainage, street lighting and wayfinding

Any work on existing Public Rights of Way will involve liaising with the Public Rights of Way team to improve / enhance definitive widths. Where the definitive width is to be amended, the relevant “permissions” will be sought.

Statutory Apparatus information will be applied for and any diversions undertaken.

An engagement exercise will be undertaken (process to be determined) as part of the planning process and anticipated early June 2021

It is anticipated that the schemes will either be awarded directly to the DLO (subject to timescales for delivery) or will be put out to tender in late September / early October with the tender return before the submission of the Full Business Case in December (and subject to Planning consent being granted)

Subject to the successful Full Business Case (where approval would be granted for tender award and the funds for the schemes awarded) it is likely that the schemes would start on site April 2022.

5.3 Submission of the Planning Application

Whilst most of the route(s) are on highway and as such can be delivered under the Council’s powers as Highway Authority, there are areas where planning consent will be required.

A brief has been prepared to appoint a planning consultant to support the Council in preparing the planning application and this is programmed to be submitted in early July with 13 weeks to determine. It is anticipated that this will be determined by Planning Board in November 2021.

6. IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE / SERVICE USERS

- 6.1 Improved access to local rail stations can increase the number of people using alternative modes of transport. Creating and improving new lengths of walking / cycling facilities can reduce the number of cars on the local road network, which in turn can help improve air quality, increase health and wellbeing and increase physical activity.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Consultation on the Financial Implications of this report has taken place with representatives of the Service Director (Section 151 Officer) Finance.
- 7.2 Approval is sought to accept the following grant funding from Sheffield City Region totalling £1.367m to support the **TCF programme** and release the associated work packages into the capital programme for the following projects - highlighted in yellow in the table below:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Revised Programme</u>	<u>Stage 1 OBC Funding Allocation</u>	<u>Stage 2 FBC Funding Allocation</u>	<u>Stage 3 Delivery Funding Allocation</u>
A61 Active Travel	£5.200m	£0.093m	£0.897m	£4.210m
A635 Stairfoot - Goldthorpe	£2.136m	£0.043m	£0.364m	£1.730m
TC AT Hub	£2.400m	£0.048m	£0.240m	£2.112m
M1 J38 - Darton AT Route	£1.612m	£0.032m	£0.161m	£1.419m
River Dearne Long route	£0.511m	£0.010m	£0.051m	£0.450m
Goldthorpe AT Hub	£0.504m	£0.010m	£0.050m	£0.444m
Darton AT Hub	£0.354m	£0.006m	£0.035m	£0.313m
Station Improvements	£0.554m	£0.011m	£0.055m	£0.487m
	£13.272m	£0.253m	£1.854m	£11.164m

- 7.3 Approval is sought to accept the following grant funding from Sheffield City Region totalling £0.023m to support the AT programme highlighted in yellow in the table below:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Revised Programme</u>	<u>Stage 1 OBC Funding Allocation</u>	<u>Stage 2 FBC Funding Allocation</u>	<u>Stage 3 Delivery Funding Allocation</u>
Goldthorpe Quiet Streets	£0.550m	£0.011m	£0.055m	£0.484m
Elsecar to Cortonwood	£0.575m	£0.012m	£0.058m	£0.506m
	£1.125m	£0.023m	£0.113m	£0.990m

- 7.4 It should be noted that individual scheme costs remain subject to ongoing review and may change subject to the outcome the detailed design work. The outcome of this work will be closely monitored by Finance to ensure costs remain within the grant allocations provided by SCR and where this is not the cases appropriate mitigations are sought.

- 7.5 It is important to note that there is no financial ‘ask’ from the Council to progress the recommendations outlined within this report.
- 7.6 Subsequent reports will be provided to Members advising on the outcome of the OBC’s and FBC’s review process and containing recommendations to support project delivery.
- 7.7 Appendix A provides an overview of the impact of the recommendations in this report on the Capital Programme.

8. EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no issues arising directly from this report. A Restructure is currently underway which will provide the required in-house resources to deliver active travel schemes and develop a work programme. Any staffing implications will be subject to reports on specific schemes.

9. COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 All Sheffield City Region business case submissions are high profile schemes and appropriate communication strategies are being developed linked to the signing of the funding agreement. Releases will also need to be agreed and co-ordinated with Sheffield City Region Combined Authority arrangements.
- 9.2 Timely and accurate information will be provided through appropriate press releases via local press, social media/website updates, local member briefings, and engagement with key stakeholders.

10. CONSULTATIONS

Engagement / Consultation to Date

- 10.1 The pandemic has prevented the more traditional approach to consultation / engagement; therefore, we have undertaken an online survey for the residents of Barnsley to determine their views on providing Active Travel routes across the Borough.

Over 230 responses have been received representing a broad range of local views which have been very positive in terms of building our walking and cycling aspirations. Below is a selection of the results:

- 68% of respondents never cycle;
- The car is the main choice of travel for all activities;
- 63% of respondents thought more extensive and direct active travel routes would be useful or very useful to get them walking and cycling more;
- 64% of respondents thought more segregated walking and cycling routes from traffic would be useful/very useful to get them walking and cycling more.

Schedule of Proposed Consultation

- 10.2 A public consultation event to disseminate information on the detailed design, to capture public opinion and degree of support, and to record and measure responses will be held in 2021; at this stage it will depend on further impacts of the pandemic

and whether the country is still in lockdown. Hopefully, this event will be face to face in a local community building.

Details on this event will be captured in the Full Business Case submission

Plans for additional consultation following the completion of the procurement process for the construction of the works will be developed.

We will engage with community groups, local councillors and residents about the effect the proposed scheme will have on the community both in the long term and during construction phase. Noise and traffic disruption are likely to be a concern.

It is anticipated that there will be communications activity with the local community in advance of the start.

11. THE CORPORATE PLAN AND THE COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

- 11.1 The proposal creates a key strategy and defines how it supports Barnsley Council's other key strategies.

12. PROMOTING EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

- 12.1 Better connectivity, affordable and inclusive travel, a cleaner environment and a healthier population are all key aims of the SCR Strategic Economic Plan and the Barnsley Transport Strategy 2014 – 2033.
- 12.2 The proposed projects support the principles of the SCR Strategic Economic Plan and the Barnsley Transport Strategy 2014 – 2033, and once completed will provide better connectivity and opportunities assisting linking people to employment, training and healthcare.

13. TACKLING THE IMPACT OF POVERTY

- 13.1 The proposed schemes will assist in linking people to employment, training and healthcare.

14. TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES

- 14.1 The strategy will improve access for residents and visitors travelling from different parts of the borough and links to public transport and active travel will provide more options, promoting sustainable travel choices as the preferred mode. Improved air quality is one of three Strategic Outcomes of this strategy. The strategy assists in improving air quality by reducing emissions as a result of encouraging low emission vehicles and active travel, whilst the use of smart signage will reduce the occurrence of unnecessary vehicle journeys.

15. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 15.1 In accordance with TAG guidance, a Quantified Risk Assessment (QRA) has been undertaken to consider those risks that may impact on scheme costs, their likelihood

and the associated financial impact. The risk “allocation” which forms part of the grant allocations from SCR can be drawn down should those risks occur.

16. HEALTH, SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESILIENCE ISSUES

16.1 Health and Safety issues will be identified during the preparation of individual projects and addressed as part of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015.

17. COMPATIBILITY WITH THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

17.1 The proposals are compatible with the European Convention of Human Rights.

18. CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY

18.1 The proposals do not affect the conservation of biodiversity; where possible the schemes will be designed to enhance biodiversity, with additional planting / SuDs etc.

19. GLOSSARY

MCA – Mayoral Combined Authority

SCR – Sheffield City Region

DfT – Department for Transport

TCF – Transforming Cities Fund

OBC – Outline Business Case

FBC – Full Business case

20. APPENDICES

Appendix A – Financial Implications

21. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Sheffield City Region Transforming Cities Fund Tranche 2 Business Case Submission.
Sheffield City Region Active Travel Plan Implementation

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