

## BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT OF:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

**TITLE:** TRANSFORMING CITIES FUND  
A61, A635 ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEMES, STATION ACCESS  
SCHEMES APPROVAL TO SPEND

|                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>REPORT TO:</b>               | <b>CABINET</b>                  |
| <b>Date of Meeting</b>          | <b>21 September 2022</b>        |
| <b>Cabinet Member Portfolio</b> | <b>Regeneration and Culture</b> |
| <b>Key Decision</b>             | <b>Yes</b>                      |
| <b>Public or Private</b>        | <b>Public</b>                   |

### **Purpose of report**

The purpose of this report is to advise Cabinet on

- the progress made towards the delivery of the A61 and A635 Active Travel Schemes
- the progress made towards the delivery of the Station Access Improvement schemes

and to seek Cabinet approval:

- To accept the offer of TCF funding from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) to support the A61, A635 and Station Access schemes
- To secure delegated authority for the Council to use the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) grant funding to progress the evaluation and award for the A61 and A635 Active Travel schemes procurement and to enter into contract for delivery of these works
- To secure delegated authority for the Council to use the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) grant funding for the Council's Direct Labour Organisation (DLO) to deliver the Station Access Improvement schemes at Darton and Elsecar
- To prepare and progress any necessary statutory procedures required to develop and deliver the proposed schemes in line with SYMCA guidance

**Council Plan priority - Sustainability**

## **Recommendations**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Notes the progress on the delivery of the A61 and A635 Active travel schemes;
2. Notes the tender returns show that the prices are within the indicative budget allocation, subject to the due diligence checks which are ongoing;
3. To then agree to award the tender to the successful contractor to deliver the works;
4. Approves acceptance of grant funding from SYMCA for the construction of the works;
5. Approves acceptance of the grant funding from SYMCA for the delivery of the Station Access Improvement Scheme for the Councils DLO to deliver; and
6. The Service Director of Finance in consultation with the Executive Directors of Legal and Place be authorised to negotiate the terms and conditions of, and final approval of the SYMCA grant funding agreements, for the delivery of the A61 and A635 Active Travel Schemes.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with the information to accept the SYMCA TCF funding for the 3 schemes – A61 Royston Active Travel Scheme, the A635 Active Travel Link and the Station Access Improvement schemes for Darton and Elsecar.

## **2. PROPOSAL**

- 2.1 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 SYMCA’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
- 2.2 On 23rd March 2020 the DfT agreed funding of £166m regionally to deliver the TCF programme. The SYMCA submitted an indicative list of projects in April 2020 that aligned with the new funding offer. Over £13m was awarded to Barnsley.
- 2.3 Outline Business Case approvals were granted in July 2020 for:
  - A61 Active Travel Scheme – Barnsley-Royston
  - A635 Active Travel scheme.
  - Station Access Improvement Schemes (Darton and Elsecar)

- 2.4 Since the award of the Outline Business Case, the Transport / Highway Design teams have prepared the detailed design, cost estimates, full business case documents and prepared the tender documents. In the case of the A61 Royston Active Travel scheme, planning consent for a section of drainage works was needed (consent granted June 2022). Public consultation events have been held in the area, which were well received, and the schemes have been amended to take into account comments made.
- 2.5 With Benefit Cost Ratio's of 1.68, 1.60 and 1.99 respectively; this demonstrates that the schemes offer a Medium value for money (a result of between 2 and 4 is considered high value for money).
- 2.6 A Full Business Case and accompanying documents for all three schemes were submitted to SYMCA on 30<sup>th</sup> June. The details provided in that submission continued to give confidence that the scheme is deliverable on time, within the original budget and can support the outcomes required. These have been appraised and approved at TEB / MCA board for the scheme to be delivered
- 2.7 The Tender documents for the delivery of the A61 and A635 Active Travel Schemes were published on 7 July with a return date of 23<sup>rd</sup> August. The tenders generated a good level of interest with five compliant tenders received.
- 2.8 The submission included proposals from each of the Tenderers for added social value outcomes as part of their delivery of the works.
- 2.8 In the case of the Station Access Improvement Schemes, this will be delivered by the Council's in house DLO team.

### **3. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION**

#### **3.1 Financial and Risk**

- 3.1.1 Consultation on the Financial Implications of this report has taken place with representatives of the Service Director Finance (Section 151 Officer).
- 3.1.2 Approval is sought to accept "up to £7.6m" from the TCF programme Capital funding to support the projects identified in paragraph 2.3.
- 3.1.3 Tender submissions for the schemes were received on 30 August and of the five tenders received the value of the highest is well within the estimates provided in the recent full business case submissions to the MCA and the £7.6m funding envelope allocated by MCA. The tendered values provide sufficient headroom for absorbing non-construction costs and inflationary pressures on materials and labour.
- 3.1.4 Final bidder selection has gone through the normal due diligence checks and a preferred contractor has been selected. Formal announcements will be made following Cabinet approval to receive the funds.

3.1.5 In terms of MCA governance, scheme business cases will be considered by the MCA as follows:

Transport & Environment Board – 1<sup>st</sup> September; the schemes were approved.

Mayoral Combined Authority Board – 19<sup>th</sup> September.

3.1.6 There is no financial “ask” from the Council to progress the recommendations outlined in this report.

3.1.7 Appendix A – summarises the financial implications of accepting funding only as the full scheme costs may still change. Funding will be drawn down from SYMCA on quarterly basis based on actual costs incurred. Any surpluses will be retained by SYMCA.

## **3.2 Legal**

The use of the funds will be subject to SYMCA’s terms and conditions

## **3.3 Equality**

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.

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.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) for all three of the schemes has been completed to demonstrate our due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty. For the purpose of this report, no potential for unlawful discrimination and / or low level or minor impact has been identified. Key Findings:

- The project will bring benefits to protected groups via improving walking and cycling facilities along the A635. It will be built to be inclusive of all protected groups especially age and disabilities.
- The project will bring benefits to protected groups via improving an established Public Right of Way between Barnsley Town Centre and Royston. The proposed link will be built to be inclusive of all protected groups especially age and disabilities.

## **3.4 Sustainability**

The Sustainable Decision Wheel has been completed which shows high positive impacts for sustainability.



### 3.5 Employee

There are no issues arising directly from this report. The recent restructure in the Strategic Transport team has provided the in-house resources to deliver active travel schemes and develop a work programme. Any staffing implications will be subject to reports on specific schemes.

### 3.6 Communications

All SYMCA 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 coordinated with the SYMCA arrangements.

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.

## 4. CONSULTATION

### Engagement / Consultation to Date

The pandemic has prevented the more traditional approach to consultation / engagement; therefore, in early 2020 we undertook an online survey for the residents of Barnsley to determine their views on providing the major work programme around Bus Priority and Active Travel routes across the Borough.

Over 230 responses were 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.

### **Full Business Case Consultation**

Public consultation events to disseminate information on the detailed design, to capture public opinion and degree of support, and to record and measure responses were held in various community buildings in March and June 2022. Where possible / practicable, suggestions that were made at these events were incorporated into the design (such as informal crossing points).

#### A61

Two events were held for the A61 scheme:

| <b>Location</b>            | <b>Date &amp; Time</b>                       |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Honeywell Community Centre | Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2022 3pm-8pm |
| Roundhouse Library         | Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> March 9am – 5pm      |

The two events attracted around 50 visitors who were largely in support of the scheme.

#### A635

Two events for the A635 were held

| <b>Location</b>           | <b>Date &amp; Time</b>                                 |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Darfield Community Centre | Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2022 12.30pm – 7.30pm |
| Christ Church Ardsley     | Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2022 12.30am – 7.30pm   |

During the March 2022 consultation events, the A61 and A635 Schemes received positive support. Councilors and residents recognised the benefits of enhancing routes so that existing suitable infrastructure is better connected and residents from towns on the border of the borough (Goldthorpe and Royston) can travel along dedicated active travel corridors towards the town centre.

Within the A635 consultation there was a strong request by Ardsley residents and councilors for crossing facilities to be included as part of the scheme, this request was considered and included.

The two events saw around 120 attendees combined. The views were highly positive for the Fitzwilliam Road section of the scheme. However, concerns around the central reservation and provision of a crossings along the A635 Doncaster Road in Ardsley were raised. Following consultation, amendments have made following the consultation to address some of the concerns.

The local SAGA group have also been consulted as part of this consultation on 2 occasions.

Both Darfield and Stairfoot ward members have been briefed.

### Station Access

A public consultation was held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at the Darton Centre. The feedback was mainly positive, but concerns were raised over the closure of the tunnel on Mill Lane due to the visibility of the alternative route on Mill Lane/Church Street Junction. To accommodate and mitigate these concerns this junction has been reconfigured to improve sight lines and to reduce speeds.

Local ward members have been briefed following the consultation with the changes to address the concerns.

The Elsecar Station Access scheme was well received at the consultation event.

Residents recognized how the proposals would improve accessibility to the train

station. The schemes main feature of a sealed track across a local field was welcomed

– with attendees mentioning it would overcome issues around connectivity and usage

during winter months.

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

## **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 The only other option is for the Council not to accept the Funding and not to deliver the schemes. This would then mean the Council would be liable for claw back for failing to deliver the TCF programme.

## **6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 To ensure that Cabinet remains informed on the progress of the work to deliver the Transforming Cities Fund schemes and to ensure that funds are accepted to enable the work to continue in a timely manner.
- 6.2 The schemes must be delivered by the end of May 2023 and the usual SYMCA process is such that the tender for the construction of the scheme has to be returned prior to submission of the Full Business Case. This is appraised by SYMCA and given the values will need the MCA approval – a process which can take a minimum of 3 months.
- 6.3 To then go through the Cabinet approval process to accept the tender and grant funding could add a further 2 months to the process. This puts the progress of the scheme at risk due to the uncertainty in the price of

construction materials, this could mean that tenderers either inflate prices to cover the delay in award or add in high costs to cover risk in delaying signing the contract.

- 6.4 In the case of the A61 and A635 however, we have been given approval to run the tender period concurrently with the Full Business Case submission. This means that the final tender price was received in time for the Transport Environment Board (TEB) on 1 September and therefore approval granted at the MCA on 19<sup>th</sup> September; with approval being sought by Cabinet to award the tender.
- 6.5 The agreement to award the tender will now allow work to start on site as early as October with the anticipated opening date for both schemes at the end of March 2023
- 6.6 In the case of the Station Access Improvement schemes at Darton and Elsecar, this work will be delivered in-house by the Council's DLO.

## 7. GLOSSARY

SYMCA – South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority  
SCR – Sheffield City Region  
DfT – Department for Transport  
DLO – Direct Labour Organisation  
TCF – Transforming Cities Fund  
OBC – Outline Business Case  
FBC – Full Business case

## 8. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A: Financial Implications

## 9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email [governance@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:governance@barnsley.gov.uk) so that appropriate arrangements can be made

## 10. REPORT SIGN OFF

|                                              |                                   |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Financial consultation &amp; sign off</b> | <b>Mark Bell 28 June 2022</b>     |
| <b>Legal consultation &amp; sign off</b>     | <b>Jason Field 18 August 2022</b> |

**Report Author: Tracey Brewer, Post: Head of Strategic Transport**