

Mayoral Combined Authority Board

14 November 2023

Programme Approvals

Is the paper exempt from the press and public?	No
Reason why exempt:	Not applicable
Purpose of this report:	Choose an item.
Is this a Key Decision?	Yes
Has it been included on the Forward Plan?	Yes

Director Approving Submission of the Report:

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Report Author(s):

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Executive Summary

This report seeks:

1. Progression of one investment scheme subject to conditions set out in the Assurance Summary provided
2. Approval to submit a proposal to the Department of Transport (DfT) for the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund
3. To provide an update on the Skills Bootcamp: Wave 5 proposal and requests approval to accept the grant and onward award.
4. To provide an update on delegated decisions following the MCA board approval of the Assurance Framework in March 2023 and subsequent approval in July 2023

What does this mean for businesses, people and places in South Yorkshire?

This report is seeking approval to progress activity and enter contract for an investment proposal which will support the MCA's aspirations.

Recommendations

This report recommends that the Board considers and approves:

- a. Progression of “Fargate Future High Streets Fund (D14)” from Full Business Case (FBC) to full approval and award of £6.8m grant to Sheffield City Council (SCC) subject to the conditions set out in Assurance Summary A4
- b. Submission of a proposal to DfT for LEVI capital funding and acceptance of any grant award.
- c. Acceptance of any subsequent grant award following the submission of a proposal for the Skills Bootcamp: Wave 5 to the Department for Education
- d. Note the update for delegated decisions.
- e. Delegate authority to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Section 73 and Monitoring Officer to enter into legal agreements for the schemes above

Consideration by any other Board, Committee, Assurance or Advisory Panel

Programme Board

18 September 2023

Programme Board

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1. Background

- 1.1 This report seeks approval from the MCA Board for the progression of one capital scheme and submission of a proposal to DfT for LEVI capital funding and acceptance of any subsequent grant award.

This report also seeks to update the MCA Board regarding a proposal submitted to the Department for Education for Wave 5 of the Skills Bootcamps, and to approve acceptance of any subsequent grant award. This request reflects a time-critical opportunity.

- 1.2 The report also provides an update on the status of delegated decisions.

Further details are provided on the proposals in the main body of the report.

Full Business Case Scheme Approval

- 1.3 **Sheffield City Council
Future High Streets Fund – Sheffield Fargate
Progression to Full Award**

Sheffield City Council (SCC) are seeking £6.8m in funding to contribute towards a total scheme cost of £28.1m at an intervention rate of 24%.

Funding has previously been earmarked to this scheme from the allocations of Gainshare made in March 2021 (£4.6m) and the Mayor’s Sustainable Transport Fund allocations (£2.2m) made in March 2022.

The funding will complement Future High Street Funding received by SCC, enabling inflationary pressures to be met without further compromising on the quality and scope of the scheme.

This project includes capital works for the New Front Door programme and the operation of an electric shuttle bus service for a 5-year period. It is estimated that

this commitment from SCC will secure a 7 day a week operation for 5 years, at a 7–8 minute frequency, between 7am and 7pm.

The shuttle bus project is being designed to allow some flexibility, so that there could be an evening variation to the shuttle bus route in the future, which could serve the night-time economy.

Benefits and Outcomes:

- 9922m2 of enhanced public realm by 31st March 2025.
- Secure the operation of the City Centre Shuttle Bus Service commencing in 23/24 for a 5-year period
- 156 new jobs
- 8 new housing units
- Repurposing and refurbishment of 4,372m2 of vacant/underused commercial floorspace by 31st March 2026.
- Growth in both visitors and footfall on Fargate.
- The new events infrastructure will host over 100 events per annum and attract over 55,000 additional visitors to Fargate.

Appendix A provides a summary of the project assurance and any suggested conditions of award

Submission of Funding Proposals

1.4

Department for Transport Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund Proposal Value - £8.915m

The Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Scheme is central government grant funding which has been allocated to English Combined and Tier 1 authorities with the intended use of providing a step-change in EV (electric vehicle) charging provision, in particular for residents without access to off-street parking who are unable to install chargers at home.

The MCA submitted an initial expression of interest and has been notionally allocated £8.915m capital funding. The next stage is to submit the Stage 2 application by the deadline of 30th November 2023 in order to receive the funding to proceed.

Previously the MCA and the four local authority partners have worked collaboratively to deliver a programme of EV chargepoint installations during 2022/23.

The LEVI scheme requires collaboration, particularly around procurement, and requires leveraging of private finance to create a larger overall scheme. The preferred solution is to use a concession-type agreement with a Chargepoint Operator (CPO) where the CPO takes on the operational risks, management, and maintenance of the chargepoint network over a contract term.

There is an opportunity to carry out a joint-procurement exercise to appoint a new CPO which the local authorities can use to deliver the LEVI scheme.

Sheffield City Council are in the process of developing a concession-type procurement and the MCA are working with SCC to understand if this can be made accessible for all local authorities. This would be compliant with the LEVI scheme.

The intention is to go to procurement with the full allocated grant amount and ask the tenderers to propose the total project value and how this would be divided across the four areas of South Yorkshire to ensure equitable provision for residents. The subsidy funding will then be divided between the four partners according to the preferred supplier plan and each authority can then deliver the programme within its boundary under a back-to-back grant agreement with the MCA.

This report proposes that we:

- Continue to progress with the Stage 2 application submission for 30th November 2023; and,
- Continue to work with the local authorities to agree a suitable procurement route and design with the intention of delivering a single route to market for the LEVI funding

Skills Bootcamps

1.5 Department for Education Skills Bootcamps (FY 2024-25) Proposal value - £3m

The Department for Education via the National Skills Fund has invested in the delivery of Skills Bootcamps across the country to meet the skills needs of local areas. From 2019 Skills Bootcamps formed part of the government's Lifetime Skills Guarantee. Since then, the Skills for Life campaign was announced by government and significant investment has been committed by the government to scale up Skills Bootcamps from 2022 to 2025.

Skills Bootcamps aim to secure benefits for adults by giving them access to in-demand skills training and a guaranteed interview for a more sustainable, higher-skilled job and higher wages over time. The benefits for employers include helping them fill specific skills shortage vacancies, enabling them to become more productive, more quickly. Skills Bootcamps must be delivered at Level 3-5 or equivalent, with the exception of Skills Bootcamps in Construction, Green Skills and HGV Driving which may be delivered at Level 2 or equivalent.

Skills Bootcamps funding is awarded annually and SYMCA is currently in its first year of delivery of Bootcamps to 180 adult learners in 2023/24 under Wave 4. For Wave 5 SYMCA is seeking to expand delivery to 800 adult learners across Digital, Green Skills, Business and Administration Services and Creative sectors.

On 5th October 2023 SYMCA submitted a proposal to Department for Education for Wave 5 activity, worth £3m in 2024/25. Successful applicants are due to be informed early November 2023 with grant award by the end of November 2023 for delivery in the 24-25 financial year. The quantum awarded to SYMCA will be decided by Government and funded in full – no SYMCA funding is required.

The proposal has support of both the Portfolio lead for Education, Training and Skills and the Chief Executives of SYMCA and the 4 South Yorkshire Local Authorities

1.6 **Delegated Decision Update**

In March 2023 the MCA board approved the revised Assurance Framework which was informed by local authority and wider stakeholder feedback and considered alongside the wider organisational review. The resulting changes sought to streamline and improve the speed and efficiency of the assurance process, without compromising quality and rigour.

Subsequently in July 2023 the MCA board recognised that there was an unintended discrepancy where the intention for a one-stop process was undercut by the need to seek separate approvals for development funding release.

The Board approved delegated authority to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with Portfolio Leaders and the S73 and Monitoring officer to approve the release of development cost funding in line with the Assurance Framework.

Appendix B gives details of the progression of schemes and awarded development cost funding where required.

2. **Options Considered and Recommended Proposal**

2.1 **Option 1**

Approve all recommendations.

2.2 **Option 1 Risks and Mitigations**

Approval of the progression of the investment propositions will result in a commitment being made against the programme budget and continuation of activity.

2.3 **Option 2**

Reject some, or all, of the recommendations.

2.4 **Option 2 Risks and Mitigations**

Rejection of the recommendations in this report would mean the region foregoing the forecast benefits arising from the investment and the delivery of the activity at risk.

2.5 **Recommended Option**

Option 1

3. **Consultation on Proposal**

3.1 Discussions for this proposal has continued with the Portfolio Leads and SYMCA business partners.

4. **Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

4.1 Subject to the approval of the recommendations and approval by the MCA, the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Section 73 Officer and Monitoring Officer will progress to enter into legal agreements for the schemes.

5. Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice

5.1 Continuation of activity is recommended for approval or progression in this report and are presented with a proposed funding source.

6. Legal Implications and Advice

6.1 The legal implications of the proposal have been fully considered by a representative of the Monitoring Officer.

7. Human Resources Implications and Advice

7.1 None.

8. Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice

8.1 Equality and diversity implications are taken into account as part of the proposal considerations

9. Climate Change Implications and Advice

9.1 Climate change implications are considered as part of the proposal considerations.

10. Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice

10.1 None

11. Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice

11.1 The approval provides positive opportunities to highlight the difference the MCA's investments will make to people and places across South Yorkshire and how Members are taking action to support the region's recovery from COVID.

List of Appendices Included

None.

Background Papers

None.