

Delegated Authority Approvals Paper

24 April 2024

Programme Approvals – Infrastructure

Is the paper exempt from the press and public?	No
<i>Reason why exempt:</i>	Not applicable
Purpose of this report:	Funding Decision
Is this a Key Decision?	Yes
Has it been included on the Forward Plan?	Yes

Director Approving Submission of the Report:
Gareth Sutton, Chief Finance Officer/s73 Officer

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Executive Summary

This report requests the progression of one scheme subject to conditions set out in the report.

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

This report is seeking approval to progress 1 business case and enter into contract for an investment proposal which will support the MCA's aspirations.

Recommendations

This report recommends:

1. The Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Portfolio lead, Section 73 and Monitoring Officer approve the award of development costs of £4.6m for the development of the Barnsley Town Centre Strategic Acquisition scheme. The

MCA agreed in September 2023 that the Outline Business Case (OBC) should progress to Stage 1 FBC.

Consideration by any other Board, Committee, Assurance or Advisory Panel
Programme Board 10 April 2024

1. Background

- 1.1 In March 2023 the MCA board approved the revised Assurance Framework. The revised Assurance Framework provides for a one-stop governance process. This change was designed to improve the pace at which schemes can be developed and delivered. Strategic Business Cases are undertaken within authorities, with Outline Business Cases undertaken at MCA Board level.

The Framework allows for schemes that are accepted into the programme to access development funding. Development funding is a key component in supporting the development of quality schemes at pace and is distributed on conclusion of the Strategic Business Case. Accordingly, 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 and OBC approvals.

Therefore, in July 2023 the MCA board granted approval to delegate authority to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with Portfolio Leaders and the Section 73 and Monitoring Officer to approve the release of development cost funding in line with the Assurance Framework to enable schemes to progress as efficiently as possible.

- 1.2 The report seeks the progression and the release of development cost funding for one scheme. The report provides details on the project and outlines how the scheme would be funded

Development Cost Funding Approvals

- 1.3 **D0063 – Barnsley Town Centre Strategic Acquisition**
BMBC

BMBC are seeking £4.6m in development costs to progress this key strategic project to a stage 1 full business case. This project represents a central pillar of BMBC's Place Plan, previously endorsed by the MCA Board in June 2023. The project supports core MCA's aspirations, in particular addressing health inequalities in South Yorkshire and supporting the regeneration of urban centres by repurposing a town centre building into an economically viable centre. The projects sits alongside the wider regeneration of the town centre, helping to restore pride and prosperity in the town and the region.

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 existing programme budgets.

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 investments and the delivery of the projects at risk.

2.5 **Recommended Option**

Option 1

3. **Consultation on Proposal**

3.1 Discussions for this project has continued with the Local Authority during project development.

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

4.1 Subject to the approval of the recommendations and approval by, the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the portfolio lead and Section 73 Officer the schemes will progress to enter into a legal agreement.

The promoter is responsible for the further development of projects that have gateway approval to the next stage of the MCA Assurance process

5. **Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice**

5.1 A capital investment project is recommended for progression in this report. The project is presented with a proposed funding source.

6. **Legal Implications and Advice**

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

7. **Human Resources Implications and Advice**

7.1 N/A

8. **Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice**

8.1 Equality and diversity implications are taken into account as part of the assurance of the project business cases.

9. **Climate Change Implications and Advice**

9.1 Climate change implications are considered as part of the assurance of the project application process

10.2 The project detailed in this report include new and/or enhanced active travel initiatives thereby shifting private vehicle use to more sustainable modes of transport. This aims to deliver health benefits and positively contribute to the SYMCA's climate change aspirations.

11. Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice

11.1 N/A

12. Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice

12.1 The approvals provide positive opportunities to highlight the difference the MCA's investments will make to people and passengers, businesses and places across South Yorkshire and how Members are taking action to support the region's recovery from COVID and the cost-of-living crisis.

List of Appendices Included

A None