

HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE BOARD

22nd October 2020

FORWARD PLAN

Purpose of Report

This report proposes the the key areas of work for the Housing and Infrastructure Board.

Thematic Priority

Cross cutting

Freedom of Information

The paper will be available under the Combined Authority Publication Scheme

Recommendations

The Board is asked to note the key areas of focus for the Board and the proposed Forward Plan set out in Appendix 1.

1. Introduction

- 1.1** This paper summarises the main areas of work that the Board will be leading on over the next year. The Forward Plan (Appendix 1), which indicates when particular reports will be brought to this Board for consideration, will be a standing item on each Board meeting agenda.

2. Proposal and justification

2.1 Key areas of work

There are several ongoing areas of work which fall under the remit of the new Housing and Infrastructure Board, some of which will require investment decisions to be made. These areas are listed below along with a short update on the current status of the work.

2.2 Growth Area Economic Blueprints

A series of Economic Blueprints are proposed to be developed covering the nine Growth Areas identified in the draft SCR Strategic Economic Plan, which will set out a road map for the delivery of a shared vision and aspirations for each priority 'place,' including integrated packages of public interventions and infrastructure. It is intended to secure a shared commitment by the MCA, local authorities and potentially other Government agencies to unlocking opportunities in the Growth Areas in an integrated way. They will be brought to the Housing & Infrastructure Board and the MCA for consideration and approval once drafted. The first of the Blueprints, Gateway East, has already been

presented to the former Infrastructure Board with the others aiming to be prepared over the coming months. Some of the Growth Areas are also Town Deal investment areas.

2.3 Capital Project Delivery

Development of Strategic Business Cases for each Growth Area setting out the capital projects to be delivered over the next 5 years, linked with the delivery of other programmes such as Town Deal, Future High Street Fund and One Public Estate.

2.4 Getting Britain Building Fund

The GBB Fund programme will see the delivery of 14 infrastructure schemes over the next 18 months. £33.6m was recently secured from Government for a prioritised programme of Major Capital Infrastructure Schemes that are 'shovel ready'. The schemes cover a range of employment, skills, digital, public realm, regeneration, and active travel infrastructure schemes, with all but one located within the SEP Growth Areas. Relevant FBCs will be coming to the Board for approval or for recommendation for approval to the MCA.

2.5 Digital Infrastructure

Consultants were commissioned in July to support the preparation of the SCR Digital Infrastructure Strategy. A first phase of the work is nearing completion. The Strategy will, through engagement with the industry, local authorities and other partners, identify the gaps in digital infrastructure provision which will impede the roll-out of full fibre and 5G across the SCR. Importantly, it will help identify where public intervention and investment may be required to support this roll-out, which will be critical to supporting economic growth and social inclusion in a post Covid-19 future.

2.6 Flood Programme

Work is ongoing with the Environment Agency (EA), Local Authorities and Internal Drainage Boards to secure the £271m funding required to deliver the SCR prioritised Business and Infrastructure Resilience Flood Programme, including embedding the priority schemes within the EAs Medium Term Plan. The Government recently announced an additional £16m for two schemes in the prioritised programme in the upper Don Valley which will now move to the delivery stage. One scheme is in the Kelham / Neepsend area of Sheffield with the other in the Upper Don catchment area comprising of Natural Flood Management measures such as tree planting, peat restoration and other natural measures to slow the flow and contain water in times of floods. The schemes are now moving into delivery.

2.7 Decarbonisation

The SCR Energy Strategy was approved by the MCA and is now in the delivery phase. More widely, the MCAs Net Zero Programme is under development which will set out the short, medium and long-term areas of focus for South Yorkshire to become a net zero economy by 2040. A pipeline of investable schemes is being developed in liaison with partners which will be brought forward for consideration; such schemes will include; renewable electricity generation, EV charging infrastructure, heat network development and expansion, energy efficiency of existing buildings. Some of these schemes will be brought to the Board for funding decisions with others presented to the Transport and Environment Board for decision.

2.8 Brownfield Housing Fund

A brownfield funding allocation of £40m has been recently devolved from Government to unlock between 2,500-3,500 new homes in South Yorkshire over the next 5 years; with a revenue allocation to accelerate schemes in the first two years of the programme. Work is ongoing with local authorities, Homes England and other partners to both identify the early deliverable and medium-term schemes.

2.9 SCR Housing Fund

The Housing Fund, which has been operating for over two years now, also allows for housing schemes which are not on brownfield land. In developing the housing pipeline of schemes for delivery over the next 5 years, consideration will also be given to other potential schemes that could contribute to housing growth across the SCR.

2.10 Housing Retrofit

The Government announced in the Budget £2.5bn for improving the energy efficiency of existing homes to not only improve the quality and warmth of homes, but also to contribute to the net zero carbon ambitions. The majority of this programme will be run through a voucher scheme operated nationally. However, £300m is being directed through the Energy Hubs (we are part of the Yorkshire and North East Energy Hub) to MCAs / local authorities to more effectively target and improve the homes of low-income households. Discussions are ongoing with Local Authorities to explore the most effective way to deliver a domestic energy efficiency and decarbonisation investment programme to improve low income households across South Yorkshire.

2.11 Modern Methods of Construction

A major study of the opportunities to take advantage of the MMC potential in terms of both supporting business growth and building more homes across the SCR is nearly completed. A draft has previously been considered by the Housing Board and the final report will be reported to the next Board meeting

2.12 A Forward Plan for the Board is attached at appendix 1. This will be continually updated and be a standing item on future agendas.

3. Consideration of alternative approaches

3.1 It is recognised that the areas of work outlined in this report will need to evolve over time and may need to be reviewed in light of changes in MCA policies and priorities. Alternative options are considered for all revenue and capital projects.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial

There are no immediate financial implications. All schemes currently being progressed to FBC have secured funding, and other projects / activities are either funded within existing resources or funding opportunities are being explored.

4.2 Legal

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

4.3 Risk Management

A full risk analysis of the deliverability of current Housing and Infrastructure programmes and schemes will be undertaken and reported to a future meeting.

Risk assessments will be undertaken for proposed housing or infrastructure programmes or schemes as required and will be reported alongside other information to inform decision making.

4.4 Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion

None arising directly from this report.

5. Communications

- 5.1 Board papers and decisions are publicly available except where information is exempt under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

All schemes are publicised on the authority's website.

6. Appendices/Annexes

- 6.1 Appendix 1 – Forward Plan

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Background papers used in the preparation of this report are available for inspection at: 11 Broad Street West, Sheffield S1 2BQ

Other sources and references: