

25th January 2021

CAPITAL PROGRAMME APPROVALS

Purpose of Report

This paper seeks:

1. Approval of one Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) scheme with a total value of £2m, and
2. Delegated authority be given to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Section 73 and Monitoring Officer to enter into legal agreements for the scheme covered at point 1 above.

Freedom of Information and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

The paper will be available under the Combined Authority Publication Scheme.

Recommendations

The MCA consider and approve:

1. Progression of Project 'Sheffield Heart of the City Breathing Spaces' to full approval and award £2m grant from the Transforming Cities Fund to Sheffield City Council subject to the conditions set out in the Appraisal Panel Summary Table attached at **Appendix A**
2. Delegated authority be given to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Section 73 and Monitoring Officer to enter into a legal agreement for the scheme covered above.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In March 2020 the MCA was awarded £166.3m funding for the MCA's TCF aspirations. This grant was allocated from April 2019 to March 2023 resourcing a programme of transformational public transport, active travel and rail initiatives.
- 1.2 This paper requests progression of one scheme to full approval subject to any conditions to be set out in the Appraisal Panel Summary Table with a value of £2m.

2. Proposal and justification

- 2.1 **Sheffield Heart of the City Breathing Spaces Project** - Appendix A provides a summary of the scheme appraisal and the suggested conditions of award
- 2.2 **The Project** - This investment is for a £2m grant from TCF towards a total scheme cost of £12m

The scheme is to enhance the city centre by creating three new spaces including a pocket park, a vibrant small square on Carver Street and expansion of the Peace Gardens between the Town Hall and the proposed new hotel on Pinstone Street.

The new spaces adjoin developments in the £480m Heart of the City2 (HoC2) project which aims to increase attractiveness to occupiers and visitors

Total costs are £12m with £2m TCF grant alongside Sheffield City Council investing £6m and a further £4m has been approved through the Getting Better Building Fund (GBF).

The TCF proposal will provide a permanent solution on Rockingham Street to improve the reliability of public transport and provide safer routes to promote active travel but provide limited green infrastructure. This project will make walking and cycling more enjoyment attractive and help boost public transport use. The pocket park is adjacent to a proposed new bus mini-interchange on Rockingham Street and a recently installed cycle route into/out of the city centre to western suburbs.

Works will improve accessibility around the town centre and address existing DDA compliance issues.

2.3 The Benefits and Outcomes

Based on the assessment of the business case the scheme would provide low value for money. The value for money of the scheme is enhanced when considered alongside the wider Breathing Places scheme approved through GBF, overall representing Good value for money.

The project aligns closely to SCRMCA SEP and Renewal Action Plan objectives and the scheme objectives are directly aligned to the need to respond to the impacts of COVID-19. The project seeks to achieve four main objectives:

- Recovery from Covid19 by providing safe outdoor spaces for play, events and leisure (footfall counts etc.)
- Addressing climate change through investment in new green infrastructure, including cycling and pedestrian routes (space m2 and length of new routes; cycle counts)
- Catalysing economic growth and investment with a high-quality environment and place making (measure investment £; floor space built/let; job numbers)
- Place Making, attracting more people to live/work in the City Centre (residential units built and occupied; area m2 of adjoining plots sold for development)

The business case describes the complementary nature of the office development, public realm investment and improvement to the transport network as part of a holistic approach to support regeneration in the city centre and increase footfall.

Consideration of alternative approaches

- 3.1 Do nothing:** – The report proposes the projects presented today are recommended for approval subject to the conditions set out in the Appraisal Panel Summary Table. To be eligible for grant, expenditure will have to have been defrayed by 31 March 2023.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial

The project presented for approval today are profiled to drawdown £2m from the TCF allocation of £166.3m.

4.2 Legal

The legal implications of the projects have been fully considered by a representative of the Monitoring Officer and included in the recommendations agreed by the Appraisal Panel as presented in the supporting information.

4.3 Risk Management

Risk management is a key requirement for each of the submissions and is incorporated into the FBC submissions. Where weaknesses have been identified in the FBCs in terms of risk management, further work to capture and mitigate these risks is included as a condition of award in the appraisal panel summary sheets. Risks and Issues management is reported quarterly to the MCA Executive as part of contract monitoring.

High risk TCF schemes will continue to be monitored and any changes will be reported back to the Transport and Environment Board and MCA.

4.4 Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion

Appropriate equality and diversity considerations are taken into account as part of the assessment of the project business case.

5. Communications

- 5.1 The business case for the scheme presents opportunities for positive communications; officers from the MCA Executive Team will work with the relevant officers on joint communications activity at the appropriate.

6. Appendices/Annexes

- 6.1 Appendix A: Sheffield Heart of the City Breathing Spaces Appraisal Panel Summary

Report Author	Sue Sykes
Post	Assistant Director – Programme and Performance Unit
Officer responsible	Gareth Sutton
Organisation	Sheffield City Region
Email	Gareth.sutton@sheffieldcityregion.org.uk
Telephone	0114 220

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