

Transport and Environment Board

14 June 2021

Programme Approvals

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?	No
Has it been included on the Forward Plan?	Yes

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

Report Author(s):
Charli Taylor
Charli.Taylor@sheffieldcityregion.org.uk

Executive Summary:

This paper seeks -

1. Approval of progression of one Transforming Cities Fund Tranche 2 ('TCF2') Outline Business Case ('OBC') to Full Business Case ('FBC') and release of business case development funding;
2. Subject to approval of item 9, acceptance of one additional project onto the TCF2 pipeline to progress to OBC;
3. Approval of progression of two Active Travel Fund 2 ('ATF2') OBC's to FBC's and release of business case development funding; and
4. Delegated authority to be given to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Section 73 Officer and Monitoring Officer to enter into legal agreements for the points covered above.

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

This report is seeking approval to progress business cases and enter into contract for a number of investment proposals which will support the MCA's aspirations.

Recommendations:

The Board consider and approve -

1. Progression of Doncaster College to Doncaster Station Outline Business Case ('OBC') to Full Business Case ('FBC') and release of up to £59k business case development cost funding from Transforming Cities Fund Tranche 2 ('TCF2') to Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council ('DMBC') subject to the conditions set out in the Assurance Summary attached at **Appendix A**;
2. Subject to approval of item 9, progression of Broom Road Cycleways to OBC from TCF2 to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council ('RMBC');
3. Progression of Elsecar Active Travel Link OBC to FBC and release of up to £67k business case development cost funding from ATF2 to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council ('BMBC') subject to the conditions set out in the Assurance Summary attached at **Appendix B**;
4. Progression of Goldthorpe Active Neighbourhood OBC to FBC and release of up to £57k business case development cost funding from ATF2 to BMBC subject to the conditions set out in the Assurance Summary attached at **Appendix C**;
5. Delegated authority to be given to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Section 73 Officer and Monitoring Officer to enter into legal agreements for the points covered above.

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

Assurance Panel

24 May 2021

1. Background

1.1 Transforming Cities Fund Tranche 2

In March 2020 the MCA was awarded £166.30m funding for the MCA's TCF2 aspirations. This grant was allocated from April 2019 to March 2023 resourcing a programme of transformational public transport, active travel and rail initiatives.

In June 2020 the MCA approved the early release of project funding to facilitate the development of the business cases. Funding is released upon progression through governance gateways as a percentage of the total funding envelope:

1. Up to 2% is released following SOBC approval; and
2. c.10% is released, subject to a costed plan, following OBC approval.

This paper requests approval of one business case and acceptance of two additional projects onto the programme pipeline, which will enable release of business case development funding as detailed in sections 2.1 - 2.2 of this report.

1.2 Active Travel Fund Phase 2

In December 2020 the MCA was awarded £5.46m funding for the ATF2 towards total programme costs of £7.70m, matched by £2.24m Gainshare. The grant was allocated to the 4 Local Authorities for active travel activity to March 2022 and builds upon the temporary provisions as proposed during ATEF1.

As noted in section 1.1, the MCA approved the early release of up to 2% of total scheme costs to facilitate the development of the business case.

This paper requests approval of two business cases which will enable release of business case development funding as detailed in sections 2.3 – 2.4 of this report.

2. Proposal and Justifications

2.1 Doncaster College to Doncaster Station (TCF2 OBC)

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

This investment is for £0.41m from TCF2, with development costs to be released of £59k to DMBC.

The project will deliver infrastructure and safety improvements to the active travel route from Doncaster College to Doncaster Station along Grey Friars Road.

Specifically -

- 1,600 sqm improved walking infrastructure
- 300sqm of new walking infrastructure
- Two junction improvements to benefit pedestrians
- Upgraded lighting on the underpass

The project fits well with the Strategic Economic Plan, the Transport Strategy, the TCF2 programme and national policies to encourage urban living and active travel. The Assurance Summary notes some conditions of approval that will need to be resolved before an FBC can be submitted, these are detailed in full within Appendix A.

2.2 Broom Road Cycleways (TCF2 Pipeline)

RMBC have proposed inclusion of a new £3m (£1.50m TCF2, £1m ATF2 and £0.5m gainshare) project onto the TCF2 pipeline, that will deliver new cycleways along Wellgate and Broom Road, Rotherham, alongside enhancement works for walking and cycling along Broom Valley Road.

A strategic review has been completed and item 9 recommends acceptance onto the pipeline with no request for development costs. Progression beyond OBC approval is entirely contingent on funding being available.

2.3 Elsecar Active Travel Link (ATF2 OBC)

Appendix B provides a summary of the project assurance and the suggested conditions of award.

This investment is for £0.67m from ATF2, with development costs to be released of £67k to BMBC.

The project will deliver a package of measures which seeks to promote walking and cycling connectivity between Elsecar Heritage Centre and Cortonwood Retail Park. The project also includes interventions to improve road safety on Wentworth Road and Wath Road (B6097). Specifically -

- Enhancement of the existing public right of way and Trans Pennine Trail via improvements, widening and resurfacing

- Introduction of zebra crossing on Wentworth Road and improved crossing facility on Wath Road
- Wayfinding signage
- Improvements to public realm, which will include improved footways within Elsecar Park, additional seating, greenscape improvements and route finders which will showcase Elsecar Heritage Centre attractions
- Introduction of a wider 30mph speed limit within Elsecar to extend onto Wentworth Road.
- Introduction of 'dragons' teeth' road markings and speed roundels. A buffer speed limit of 40mph will also be introduced to between 60mph and 30mph zones.

The project aligns well with local and national policies and is considered good value for money. The assurance summary notes some conditions of approval that will need to be resolved before an FBC can be submitted, these are detailed in full within Appendix B.

2.4 Goldthorpe Active Neighbourhood (ATF2 OBC)

Appendix C provides a summary of the project assurance and the suggested conditions of award.

This investment is for £0.57m from ATF2, with development costs to be released of £57k to BMBC.

The project will deliver several treatments designed to remove rat running and traffic passing through housing areas in Goldthorpe by filtering permeability. Specifically -

- 3.25km of Low Traffic Neighbourhood
- Point closures of main roads to through traffic, apart from buses, access and disabled
- Widening existing footway
- pedestrian and cycling zones and modal filters / filtered permeability
- Selective road closures using planters, cones or similar
- School streets with specific interventions being agreed with the schools involved
- One-way filters
- Controlled crossing at the junction of Doncaster Road / Beaver Street
- Signage improvements

The project aligns well with local and national policies and is considered good value for money. The assurance summary notes some conditions of approval that will need to be resolved before an FBC can be submitted, these are detailed in full within Appendix C.

3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

3.1 Option 1

Do not approve the recommendations in this report.

3.2 **Option 1 Risks and Mitigations**

Inability to approve the projects presented or release development costs may result in a slower pace of delivery and loss of activity/spend to the programmes.

3.3 **Option 2**

Award projects a smaller amount of grant funding.

3.4 **Option 2 Risks and Mitigations**

All funding awards associated with the projects have been fully appraised in line with the MCC Assurance Framework to ensure value for money. Funding for these projects is timebound by the funding bodies and any underspend will be returned to the Department for Transport.

3.5 **Option 3**

Approve all recommendations.

3.6 **Option 3 Risks and Mitigations**

By approving the recommendations the available programme funding will reduce, however the projects were included in the bids submitted to the funding bodies and/or are considered a strong strategic fit in line with investment aims.

3.7 **Recommended Option**

Option 3

4. **Consultation on Proposal**

- 4.1 Once a project has been accepted onto a programme pipeline, the Value for Money Statement is published on the MCA website alongside a summary of the activity. This is updated periodically to include links to the key documents for each project and a record of progress. The MCA Executive Team collects any external comments on these schemes, and these are considered as part of the appraisal process. Project sponsors are also required to publish business cases on their own websites (or an appropriate summary of the submission) and must consider all comments received and reflect this in the next stages of the application process.

5. **Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision:**

- 5.1 Subject to the approval of the recommendations, the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Section 73 Officer and Monitoring Officer will progress to enter into legal agreements with each promoter.
- 5.2 The promoter is responsible for the further development of projects that have gateway approval to the next stage of the MCA Assurance process.

6. **Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice**

- 6.1 The projects presented for approval today are profiled to drawdown £59k from the TCF allocation of £166.3m and £124k from the ATF2 allocation of £7.70m. All are forecast to be complete activity within the programme timeframes.

7. Legal Implications and Advice

- 7.1 The legal implications of the projects have been fully considered by a representative of the Monitoring Officer and included in the recommendations agreed within the Assurance Summaries as presented in the Appendices.
- 7.2 Prior to awarding the grants, the MCA shall ensure contracts are put in place to ensure the recipients comply with the grant conditions.

8. Human Resources Implications and Advice

- 8.1 Not applicable.

9. Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice

- 9.1 Appropriate equality and diversity considerations are taken into account as part of the assurance of the project business cases.

10. Climate Change Implications and Advice

- 10.1 A number of the programmes include new and/or enhanced active travel initiatives and improved infrastructure availability thereby shifting private vehicle use to more sustainable modes of transport. This aims to deliver huge benefits for health and the prosperity of cities, positively contributing to the MCA's climate change aspirations.

11. Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice

- 11.1 Not applicable.

12. Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice. Please also refer to consultation undertaken as per Section 4

- 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.

List of Appendices Included

- A Doncaster College to Doncaster Station Assurance Summary
- B Elsecar Active Travel Link Assurance Summary
- C Goldthorpe Active Neighbourhoods Assurance Summary

Background Papers

NA