INFRASTRUCTURE BOARD

9 JULY 2019

DEVELOPING THE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT PIPELINE

Purpose of Report

To provide an update on delivery against the objectives of the SCR Integrated Infrastructure Plan and agree a process for bringing forward medium and long term infrastructure priorities.

Freedom of Information

The paper will be available under the Combined Authority Publication Scheme

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

1. note the progress to date made in delivering the SCR Integrated Infrastructure Plan.

2. support the proposed approach to developing the Infrastructure Pipeline including holding more detailed 'place' conversations with districts, and potentially other key bodies over the Summer around infrastructure projects to support growth.

1. **Introduction**

    1.1 The SCR Integrated Infrastructure Plan 2015-2025 (IIP) published in 2015, set out the potential scale and geographical extent of infrastructure investment required in the SCR to support the delivery of the SCR Strategic Economic Plan.

    1.2 A key principle of the IIP was to deliver an integrated package of infrastructure investment in order to unlock an identified growth opportunity. This principle remains valid but there is a need to review and develop a 10 year pipeline which is funding agnostic and can help shape future investment decisions.

2. **Proposal and justification**

    2.1 The IIP identified 7 Growth Areas and proposed spatial packages of interventions. A summary of key headlines is provided in Appendix 1.

    2.2 Investments have covered a broad range of infrastructure covering transport, green infrastructure/flood mitigation, regeneration, retail, leisure, universities' research and development and new industrial development.

    However, we are in the last two years of the existing SCR Local Growth Fund programme (ending 31st March 2021). All remaining funding is now provisionally allocated subject to full business case approvals and is over-programmed to ensure all funding is spent by the

funding deadline. There is therefore no scope for including additional schemes within the existing budget.

2.3   Work has begun though on developing an understanding of the next pipeline of schemes should further funding become available pre or post 2021. Discussions have been taking place with local authorities, Environment Agency, Superfast South Yorkshire Programme Board, Utility Companies, and other organisations to understand the next phases of infrastructure projects in support of the SEP.

There is a need to continue these conversations in the context of the emerging revised SEP and LIS dialogue, building upon existing knowledge gathered through the Investable Opportunities work; the previously 'open call;' and the proposals set out in the IIP.

The output will be to develop a robust Infrastructure Pipeline categorising as explained in Appendix 1. In terms of

- Short Term (1-2years) – where funding is in place / almost approved / in delivery;

- Medium (3-5 years) – where are strategic priorities where there will be a focus to advance schemes to Full Business Case and delivery-ready as soon as possible;

- long term (5-10 years) – where may have a strategic rationale but will have longer delivery timescales and may require further additional preparatory work to justify them being brought forward in an earlier timescale.

2.4   Developing a robust project pipeline in this way, will enable a more strategic and proactive approach to infrastructure investment that is aligned with both the scale and timing of growth in different priority 'places;' rather than be reactive to just an open call of schemes at any given time. It will also enable a greater understanding of how limited resources, including project management type resources, could be better employed and when to maximise impacts in bringing forward strategic schemes for development.

2.5   To develop this project pipeline, it is proposed to hold initial 'place' workshops over the Summer with districts, with the sessions covering all elements of infrastructure including energy, digital, green infrastructure and transport. There could also be the opportunity for discussions with other bodies if time allows. This exercise will also be used to review the validity of the existing IIP spatial packages in light of the SEP refresh and the LEP Review and the possibility of a different geography. The outputs of these discussions will feed into the project pipeline.

3.   Consideration of alternative approaches

3.1   An alternative option is to wait to develop the pipeline until there is greater clarity over funding opportunities and any criteria for use of the funds. However, further funding may take some time to be clarified and momentum will be lost in developing schemes through to funding approval and delivery.

The availability of funding should not be the primary consideration when developing a pipeline of infrastructure investment. The development of a pipeline will help to ensure that schemes with a strong strategic fit can progress more quickly once new programmes are in place. and will avoid a situation where delivery is backloaded towards the end of the future programme.

4.   Implications

4.1   Financial
There are no immediate financial implications. All schemes seeking financial support will be subject to the SCR Assurance Process

4.2 Legal

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

4.3 Risk Management

If progress is not made in developing an up to date pipeline of infrastructure investment there is a risk that schemes will not be ready to take advantage of new funding programmes if/when they become available. This could lead to programmes being back loaded towards the end of a programme lifetime and negatively impact on growth, regeneration and job creation. Taking forward any of the infrastructure developments will require a separate risk analysis.

4.4 Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion (Equality Act - Public Sector Equality Duty)

None arising from this report.

5. Communications

5.1 The Infrastructure Project Pipeline would not in itself be communicated more widely but as individual schemes come forward for delivery there will be positive communication opportunities.

6. Appendices/Annexes

6.1 Appendix 1: presentation 'Developing the Infrastructure Project Pipeline

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