

# LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

To: The Chair and Members of the Transport Committee

Meeting: 7 November 2019

Authority/Authorities Affected: All

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: No

## **REPORT OF MERSEYTRAVEL**

### **TRANSFORMING CITIES FUND UPDATE**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to update the Transport Committee on the Transforming Cities Fund Programme.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Transport Committee note the contents of the report.

#### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) has secured £172.5 million in capital grant from the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) for local transport investment over a 5 year period. The aim of the fund is to support programmes of interlinking interventions which will transform sustainable transport connectivity in key commuter routes in major city regions. The funding forms part of the wider Strategic Investment Fund (SIF).
- 3.2 In July 2018, the LCRCA agreed a commissioning plan to guide its approach to managing TCF. Three priority themes were agreed to set parameters for the funding:-
- (a) Theme 1: Improving and expanding the public transport network to meet new areas of demand;
  - (b) Theme 2: Improving the appeal of public transport, and particularly bus, against private transport; and
  - (c) Theme 3: Intervening for health and wellbeing.
- 3.3 At the same time, the Combined Authority also agreed to start the commissioning process, focusing on the first year's funding allocation, with the aim of seeking to commit and where possible, spend the £10 million of funding available in 2018/19.

- 3.4 To assist Project Sponsors understand the TCF process and requirements, LCRCA officers are actively supporting in a collaborative manner. In September 2019, a presentation from the LCRCA Senior Leadership team to the Project Sponsors was delivered to inform officers. Positive feedback to this approach has been received from the Officers who attended the session.
- 3.5 The TCF Programme has an agreed governance model and regular Board meetings to monitor business case development and delivery. The Director of Corporate Resources is the TCF Programme Sponsor and the Interim Director of Integrated Transport is the Lead Officer. Every Project Sponsor is required to submit a monthly reporting dashboard to enable the Board to challenge and support delivery.
- 3.6 More specifically, members agreed to commission Merseytravel, on behalf of the Liverpool City Region’s local authorities, to bring forward three proposals at a Strategic Outline Case stage ahead of a deadline of 1 November 2018:-
- (a) Funding for the launch of a smart ticketing portal and new ticketing media as a successor to “Walrus”;
  - (b) Support for a new, low carbon and low emission vessel(s) to replace the ageing Mersey Ferries; and
  - (c) Match funding in respect of the priority European Regional Development Fund Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) programme of green travel routes for cyclists.
- 3.7 These interventions were identified as they directly support Mayoral priorities and were in the strongest position to commit funding that is available this financial year.
- 3.8 The latest development position is detailed below;

Transforming Cities	
Launch date	Aug-19
Funds available (up to)	£172,500,000
Deadline for spend	31/03/2023
Cumulative progress:	
Pipeline Progress	
	Project count
Added to pipeline	19
Passed OBC	6
Passed FBC	2
CA approved	2
Committed	0
Targets	
Target date for 50% committed	TBC *
Target date for 100% committed	TBC*

Target date for 50% disbursed	TBC*
Target date for 100% disbursed	31-Mar-23

\* Target dates will be developed and agreed by the Programme Board.

3.9 Monthly reporting is also utilised for forward planning purposes. It is forecast that 50% of the projects will have received LCRCA approval to progress into the delivery stage by autumn 2020. There is an over-programming element of 30% to minimise risk of underspend by March 2023 milestone deadline.

3.10 It is proposed to provide a quarterly TCF Programme update to the Transport Committee to ensure that Members are informed.

3.11 In October 2019, a second “call” for commissioned projects and technical studies was issued by the Combined Authority, as listed in Table 1 below:-

3.12 Table 1: Three priority themes and projects

	Name of scheme	Outline of concept	Promoter
Theme 1: Improving and expanding the public transport network to meet new areas of demand	Runcorn Station Quarter	This project will transform the existing space around the existing Runcorn station.	Halton BC
	Eastern City Region Connections	A package of improvements aimed at improving the interchange options for Lea Green station.	Merseytravel
	Rolling Stock Technological Enhancements (TCIS)	Provision of infrastructure to deliver high capacity/quality wireless connectivity for the new Merseyrail fleet.	Merseytravel
	Rolling Stock Technological Enhancements(IPEMU)	Development of on board battery technology for the new Merseyrail fleet.	Merseytravel
	Headbolt Lane Gateway	This proposal extends Merseyrail through to a new station at Headbolt Lane from Kirkby.	Knowsley MBC
	Liverpool Central Station Growth Hub	Liverpool Central Station Expansion Study. The current station is close to capacity. The objective is to develop the station to allow for the anticipated growth in Merseyrail usage.	Merseytravel
	Liverpool Central Station HS2 Gateway	A Station Commission (NPR/HS2 station commission) has been established to consider delivery options for a new station in Liverpool	Merseytravel

	Name of scheme	Outline of concept	Promoter
		City Centre, to enable the city region`s connection to HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail.	
	St James Station	A new station is proposed at St James in Liverpool City Centre. It will be built on the site of the former St James station which was closed in 1917. There has been a desire to reopen the station in recent years due to the growth and investment in the nearby 'Baltic Triangle' area of Liverpool.	Merseytravel
Theme 2: Improving the appeal of public transport, and particularly bus, against private transport	Green Bus Routes	Green Bus Routes – developing a package of improvements on the A57, A562, B5178, A59 and A567 commuting corridors.	Merseytravel
	Smart Ticketing	Streamlining and enhancing the transport ticketing system to deliver simple multi modal ticketing for customers across the LCR.	Merseytravel
	Public Transport Connectivity	LCR UTC Traffic Signals Scheme network upgrade. Ensuring that the signals are digital, connected together across the region and managed in the same way.	Merseytravel
	Hydrogen Buses	Supporting Hydrogen buses within the LCR.	Merseytravel
Theme 3: Intervening for health and wellbeing	LCR Cycle Network (Phase 1)	Phase 1 of developing a network of 600km of commuter cycle routes across the LCR.	Merseytravel
	LCR Cycle Network (Phase 2)	Phase 2 of developing a network of 600km of commuter cycle routes across the LCR (Wirral & Halton).	Merseytravel
	Mersey Ferries replacement	The purchase of two new low carbon ferries and associated infrastructure.	Merseytravel

	<b>Name of scheme</b>	<b>Outline of concept</b>	<b>Promoter</b>
	Access for All	To create an obstacle free, accessible route from train station entrances to the platform. First stations include: Birkenhead Park, Broad Green, Hillside, Hunts Cross and St. Michaels.	Merseytravel
	Connecting Wirral Waters	Green travel corridor from Wirral Waters to Birkenhead making use of a disused railway line.	Wirral MBC

#### **4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

##### 4.1 Financial

There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

##### 4.2 Human Resources

There are no human resources implications resulting from this report.

##### 4.3 Physical Assets

There are no implications on physical assets resulting from this report.

##### 4.4 Information Technology

There are no implications for Information Technology resulting from this report.

#### **5. RISKS AND MITIGATION**

5.1 The Combined Authority's Programme Management Office ensures that expenditure, milestones, risk and impact of each project that is delivered in the Transforming Cities Fund Programme, is measured, monitored and reported.

5.2 To ensure compliance, the Combined Authority's Resources and Investment Directorate teams are working collaboratively to develop the programme.

#### **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The equality and diversity implications of individual projects have been and will continue to be fully considered as part of developing business case stages through to delivery.

## **7. COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

- 7.1 Communications plans to support the TCF programme, and its individual schemes, is in development and Corporate Communications will be invited to attend Board meetings in advance of key gateway decisions. Communications strategies are built around the individual schemes primarily, with overarching key messages throughout all the programmes in relation to TCF aims/objectives.
- 7.2 The developing communications plan will reflect the joint communications strategy of the LCRCA and the respective Project Sponsor Organisation.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

This report has highlighted the TCF development approach to date and will form part of a scheduled programme update to Members.

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Appendices:

None

Background Documents:

None