

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

To: The Metro Mayor and Members of the
Combined Authority

Meeting: 21 January 2022

Authority/Authorities Affected: Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Key Decision Yes

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: No

Appendix one is exempt by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF INVESTMENT AND DELIVERY AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER: INCLUSIVE ECONOMY AND THIRD SECTOR

TRANSFORMING CITIES FUND – PRESCOT BUS STATION IMPROVEMENTS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report provides

- an update on the progression of proposals from scheme promoters for the Transforming Cities Funding and
- also seeks approval to provide grant funding to Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council and Merseytravel to support improvements to Prescott Bus Station.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority:

- (a) approve the provision of grant funding to Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council and Merseytravel from the Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) – Transforming Cities Fund for the Prescott Bus Station Improvements project up to £1.9 million
- (b) delegate authority to the Executive Director of Investment and Delivery to finalise negotiations of detailed terms of the funding and associated agreements in consultation with the Combined Authority Monitoring Officer and Combined Authority Treasurer.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Members will recall from previous reports that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority received £172.5 million in capital grant to cover local transport investment over a 5-year period between 2018 and 2023, to be known as the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF). 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. This funding forms part of the Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) and is managed in accordance with its underlying principles and Assurance Framework.
- 3.2 At its meeting of July 2018, the Combined Authority agreed a commissioning framework to guide the priorities that would be eligible for funding, and which comprise three priority actions:-
- (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. The Combined Authority agreed a first set of commissioned schemes in July 2018 and a second set in October 2019.

4. PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The Prescott Bus Station project has been developed to Full Business Case. An independent review of the costs and values, an economic assessment and a review of deliverability have been undertaken. A brief summary of the project seeking funding approval is detailed below:
- 4.2 Prescott Bus Station Improvements
- 4.2.1 The project concerns improvements to Prescott bus station and nearby bus stop infrastructure. The project captures affordable, deliverable measures focussed on improving the public realm, bus journey times, reliability and quality. Measures have been developed to maximise the relative attractiveness of bus travel compared to car by providing accessibility enhancements.
 - 4.2.2 The improvements will support bus services arriving and departing from Prescott as well as the Shakespeare North Playhouse development, a project funded in part by the Combined Authority. The project is transformational for Prescott and has already begun to change the offer and attraction of the town centre. The improvements to the bus station will support this nationally recognised development and maximise the potential patronage of visitors and people travelling to and from it via public transport.

4.2.3 The public realm elements of the project and improvements to Prescott Bus Station will be delivered by Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council and additional bus stop improvements will be delivered by Merseytravel.

5. SUMMARY APPRAISAL

5.1 The project has been subject to an economic appraisal compliant with HM Treasury Green Book and DfT Transport Appraisal Guidance methodologies. A Full Business Case has been produced for the project. A proportionate, qualitative assessment of the benefits was undertaken for the project, with ambience, accessibility and safety scoring highest among the recognised benefits.

6. TRANSFORMING CITIES BOARD CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 The TCF Board is an internal body of officers. At its meeting of 14th December 2021, the TCF Board welcomed the proposal, the detailed costs and delivery plans presented and endorsed the project to proceed to the Combined Authority for its consideration and to request approval.

6.2 A copy of the TCF Board papers are attached as Appendix 1.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial

It has been confirmed that the proposed funding request can be accommodated as part of the overall Transforming Cities Funding Programme.

7.2 Human Resources

There are no direct Human Resources implications arising from this report.

7.3 Physical Assets

The physical assets to be created by the project are fully detailed in this report.

7.4 Information Technology

The approval of funding will not give rise to Information Technology issues.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The Combined Authority will enter into Funding Agreements with both Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council and Merseytravel who will deliver their respective elements of the project.

9. RISKS AND MITIGATION

- 9.1 A risk assessment and management strategy has been produced as part of the Full Business Case.

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Equality and Diversity implications are considered as part of the appraisal process in accordance with the Combined Authority's Investment Strategy. A programme wide Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is provided in Appendix 2.

11. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

All projects approved will be subject to the Combined Authority's branding guidelines and publicity requirements placed upon them as part of the Grant Agreement. In addition, the Combined Authority will, through its adopted communication protocols, publicise the award of funding to the projects and the associated envisaged outcomes.

12. PRIVACY IMPLICATIONS

There are no privacy impact implications associated with this report, but this will be considered as the programme is implemented.

13. CONCLUSION

The proposal is to commit £1.9m of TCF for the Prescott Bus Station Improvements project offering value for money and seeking to improve transport and quality of life in the Liverpool City Region.

AILEEN JONES

Executive Director of Investment and Delivery

COUNCILLOR JANETTE WILLIAMSON

Portfolio Holder: Inclusive Economy and Third Sector

Contact Officer(s):

Sam Graham Transport Development Associate m: 07765824981

sam.graham@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk

Paul Buntin Lead Officer Transport Development m: 07872418939

paul.buntin@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk

Appendices:

Appendix 1 TCF Board Paper

Appendix 2 Equalities Impact Assessment

