

Report Title	Changes to Previously Approved Strategic Investment Fund Projects
Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Inclusive Economy and Third Sector
Summary of report	This report seeks the approval of the Combined Authority to process material change controls for previously agreed Strategic Investment Fund Projects.
Is this report exempt?	No
Is this a Key Decision	Yes
Is the report urgent	No
Is this decision to be exempt from call in	No
Local Authorities affected	St. Helens Metropolitan Borough Council;
Impact and implications of this report	
Financial impact	Yes see paragraph 4.1
Delegation (s) sought	Yes, see recommendation 2 (a)
Supporting the Corporate Plan	A Fairer City Region x A Stronger City Region x A Cleaner City Region x A Connected City Region x A Vibrant City Region x
Climate Change Implications	No
Equality and Diversity implications	No
Social Value implications	No
Human Resources implications	No
Physical Assets implications	No
Information Technology implications	No
Legal implications	Yes see paragraph 4.2
Risk and Mitigation	No

Privacy implications	No
Communication and consultation implications	No
Contact Officer(s)	Tim Games, Head of Programmes
Appendices	No
Background Documents	No

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

Friday, 3 March 2023

Report of the Executive Director - Investment and Delivery and the Portfolio Holder for Inclusive Economy and Third Sector

CHANGES TO PREVIOUSLY APPROVED STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FUND PROJECTS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. This report seeks the approval of the Combined Authority to process material change controls for previously agreed Strategic Investment Fund Projects.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority approve:
 - (a) The material change to St Helens Southern Gateway Package as requested by St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council indicated in paragraphs 3.1 – 3.6 of the report and the extension of time for completion to May 2023;
 - (b) The material change to LCR Strategic Cycling and Walking Network Work Package 5 of the Transforming Cities Fund as requested by St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council, indicated in paragraphs 3.7 – 3.13 of the report and the extension of time for completion to June 2023

3. MATERIAL CHANGES TO PREVIOUSLY AGREED PROJECTS

St Helens Southern Gateway Package

- 3.1. St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council (St Helens) was initially awarded £4,894,485 funding on 19th March 2021 and a further £532,687 on 23rd July 2021 from the Transformation Cities Fund (TCF) to deliver six pedestrian and cycle routes in St Helens, improving bus interchange facilities at Lea Green Station and the reconfiguration of Marshall Cross Roundabout.
- 3.2. When the business case was submitted for initial funding, the initial concept designs were developed to earlier design standards. As the project progressed and following detailed designs, St Helens are seeking to deliver a scheme compliant with the latest Local Transport Note (LTN) 1/20 design standards, comprising separate pathways for pedestrians and cyclists on this route. The additional cost to deliver this improvement is £400,000.
- 3.3. The project includes delivery of a short section of route (circa 200m) along Chester Lane to tie the CYCLOPS junction into infrastructure installed as part of

the Emergency Active Travel Fund (EATF) in 2020. Since installing the EATF measures, there have been risks of falls from the installation of the bollards and St Helens are seeking to design a longer-term scheme and to deliver this as part of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan route to Halton. It is not possible to deliver the long-term solution as part of this project due to the timescale of the TCF window. As this is a temporary measure, St Helens are seeking to descope this route from the project. The cost allocated to this work of £12,447 will be removed from the overall project cost.

Increase in funding

- 3.4 St Helens has requested an increase in funding of £387,553 (£400,000 for Elton Head Road and reduction of £12,447 for Chester Road) to enable Elton Head Road to be LTN1/20 compliant with a protected cycle way.

Descope of Route

- 3.5 St Helens has requested a descope for Route 2, Chester Lane. This would result in a reduction of 200m of cycle way.

Extension to Completion Date

- 3.6 St Helens has requested a project extension from 31st March 2023 to 31st May 2023.

LCR Strategic Cycling and Walking Network - Work Package 5 - St Helens

- 3.7 On 26th July 2019 the Combined Authority approved £4.8m of TCF for walking and cycling schemes across the Liverpool City Region, as match to support the European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) Green Sustainable Travel Corridors Programme (GSTC).
- 3.8 A total of seven walking and cycling scheme Work Packages were approved including Work Package 5 awarded to St Helens with TCF funding of £750,000. The project will provide 6.3km of new and upgraded cycleway, including a pedestrian bridge upgrade over Rainford Brook.
- 3.9 St Helens have encountered issues on the replacement of the pedestrian bridge. The bridge has a 3.5m wide shared use cycle/ pedestrian path connecting the cycle route on either side over Rainford Brook.
- 3.10 Recent investigations of the existing bridge have indicated that ground conditions are significantly worse than originally anticipated and it is no longer possible to utilise the existing footbridge foundations in the new design. As a result, it is necessary to change the foundation design from shallow, bank-seat abutment to a piled abutment design.
- 3.11 These changes, and an increase in materials/design work prices, due to the current economic climate, have led to significant increases in cost.

Increase in funding

- 3.12 St Helens has requested an increase in TCF funding of £133,500 for additional work on the pedestrian bridge upgrade over Rainford Brook.

Extension to Project Completion Date

- 3.13 St Helens has requested a project extension from 31st March 2023 to 30th June 2023, to enable completion of the remaining elements of the Work Package.

4. IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS

4.1. Financial

The approval of the change to St Helens Southern Gateway Package (paragraph 3.4) will result in an increase in funding of £387,553 bringing total project costs to £5,814,723. This will be funding from the TCF.

The approval of the changes to WP5 Walking & Cycling Project Phase 1 (paragraph 3.12) will result in an increase in funding of £133,500 bringing the total project cost to £833,500. This will be funding from the TCF.

4.2 Legal

The recommendations within this report constitute a material change which will require variation agreements to be signed by the Combined Authority and St Helens. These will be in the Combined Authority's standard format and reviewed by Legal Services.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1. This report contains the information required for the Combined Authority to consider the changes requested by the local authority delivering these projects.

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Delivery

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