

Combined Authority Transport and Infrastructure Committee Decision Summary

Meeting: Wednesday 16 November 2022

Published: Thursday 18 November 2022

Decision Review deadline: 24 November 2022

Part 1 - Governance Items

1.1 Announcements, Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mayor Dr Nik Johnson (substituted by Councillor Lewis Herbert) and Councillor Katie Thornburrow (substituted by Councillor Smart)

1.2 Declarations of Interest

No declarations were received.

1.3 Minutes of the Transport and Infrastructure Committee meeting on 13 July 2022

The minutes of the meeting on 13 July 2022 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Deputy Mayor.

1.4 Combined Authority Forward Plan

It was resolved to note the Combined Authority Forward Plan.

1.5 Public Questions

There were three public questions.

Part 2 – Delivery

2.1 A16 Norwood Dualling

It was resolved to:

- a) Approve the Outline Business Case for the A16 Norwood Improvement Project.
- b) Recommend to the Combined Authority Board to approve the drawdown of £1.2 million from the Medium-Term Financial Plan for the development of the Full Business Case and to seek delegated authority to the Interim Head of Transport to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with Peterborough City Council following consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Chief Financial Officer.

2.2 Wisbech Rail

It was resolved to:

- a) Continue to promote and lobby for heavy rail based on the information provided by the 2020 business case and GRIP 3b and recognise that potential delivery of Wisbech to Cambridge timeframe is linked to the delivery of Ely Area Capacity Enhancements (EACE) or,

- b) Undertake an Options Assessment Report to provide the economic analysis on mode options, including existing information on heavy rail, based on a service operating between Wisbech and March which removes the current dependency on EACE whilst still being mindful of the future strategy to link into Cambridge.
- c) If option b) is selected recommend to the Combined Authority Board to approve the drawdown of £80,000 from the Medium-Term Financial Plan for the development of an Options Assessment Report and to seek delegated authority to the Interim Head of Transport to enter into a Development Services agreement with Network Rail following consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Chief Financial Officer.

2.3 Snailwell Loop

It was resolved to:

- a) Recommend to the Combined Authority Board to pause works on Snailwell Loop for a period of 6 months while there is on-going uncertainty about the Ely Area Capacity Enhancement (EACE) scheme and slip the existing budget into 2023-24, or.
- b) Recommend to the Combined Authority Board to approve £150k of the current £500k subject to approval budget to enable continued development of the project and slip the balance into 2023-24, or.
- c) Continue to work with local and regional partners to urge Government to support the EACE scheme

2.4 Bus Strategy

It was resolved to:

- a) Provide feedback on the draft Bus Strategy;
- b) Recommend that the Combined Authority Board approves the Bus Strategy to allow for a 6-week public consultation; and

- c) Delegate the responsibility to the Interim Head of Transport and the chair of the Transport and Infrastructure Committee in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer to submit the final Bus Service Improvement Plan to central government in a timely manner.

2.5 Demand Responsive Transport

It was resolved to:

- a) Retrospectively authorise the expenditure to continue to procure the Ting service for the period 17 July to 16 October 2022; and
- ~~b) Retrospectively authorise Year 1 of the tender and award of a new Ting DRT bus service contract in West Huntingdonshire starting 27 November 2022. The potential term of the contract is three years (1 year with an option to extend for 1 year + 1 year) at a cost of £424,950 per annum~~
- b) Retrospectively authorise Year 1 of the tender and award of a new Ting DRT bus service contract in West Huntingdonshire starting 27 November 2022. The potential term of the contract is three years (1 year with an option to extend for 1 year + 1 year) at a cost of £424,950 per annum; and**
- c) Note that officers will seek approval for funding and extension for Years 2 and 3 from the CA Board

2.6 Transforming Cities Fund

It was resolved to:

- a) Note the progress in managing the overarching TCF programme and recognise the positive feedback from central government;
- b) Agree the recommended capital replacement schemes for the TCF programme for approval by the Combined Authority Board and central government;

- c) Delegate powers to the Chair of the Transport and Infrastructure Committee to inform the Department for Transport of the revised TCF programme with the expectation that the fund will be allocated in full; and
- d) Delegate powers to the interim Head of Transport in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer to ensure the timely sign off for the Grant Funding Agreements with the County Council and other delivery partners, thereby reducing any potential delay in the programme.

Part 3 – Date of Next Meeting

3.1 It was resolved to:

Note the date of the next meeting of the Transport and Infrastructure Committee would take place on 18 January 2023.

Statements in bold type indicate additional resolutions made at the meeting and strikethrough indicates deletions.