



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 2.1

Transforming Cities Fund

To: Transport and Infrastructure Committee

Meeting Date: 13 July 2022

Public report: Public Report

Lead Member: Mayor Dr Nik Johnson

From: Tim Bellamy, Interim Head of Transport

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: Not Applicable

Recommendations: The Transport and Infrastructure Committee is recommended to:

- a) Note the current position in relation to the delivery of the TCF schemes programmed for 2022/23;
- b) Agree to the revision to the programme and the process for this outlined within the paper; and
- c) Delegate responsibility to the Interim Head of Transport and the Chair of Transport and Infrastructure Committee in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and the Monitoring Officer to finalise the potential replacement capital schemes (packages) for agreement by Leaders.

Voting arrangements: A simple majority of all Members present and voting, *or*

To be carried, the vote must include the vote of the Mayor, or the Deputy Mayor when acting in place of the Mayor.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report summaries the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) programme and how the Combined Authority intends to manage this over the course of the financial year.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) is a capital grant transport fund aimed at driving up productivity through investments in public and sustainable transport infrastructure in some of England's largest city regions.

- 2.2 The aims of the TCF are to improve access to good jobs within English cities and encouraging an increase in journeys made by low-carbon and sustainable modes of transport are key objectives of the TCF. This was reiterated through the Grant Determination of March 2018, that stated that the purpose of the TCF was to boost productivity, transform intra-city connectivity and reduce congestion through investment in public and sustainable transport in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

- 2.3 The TCF also aims to support the following wider cross-cutting priorities:
- Tackling air pollution;
 - Delivering more homes;
 - Delivering apprenticeships and improving skills investments; and
 - Encouraging the use of new mobility systems and technology as part of the Future of Mobility Grand Challenge established in the Industrial Strategy.

- 2.4 Around half of the TCF (£1.08 billion) was allocated to six Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCAs) on a per capita and devolved basis. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority area received £95 million.

- 2.5 In Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, the TCF has been devolved and decisions about how to invest the fund are taken by the Combined Authority Board in accordance with the aims for the Fund set out in the devolution agreement, the Combined Authority's Constitution, Assurance Framework, and strategic policy framework.

- 2.6 Within the TCF Guidance, government outlined that it recognises Local Authorities were best placed to identify the types of projects to deliver and seeks to partner to develop packages of proposals that deliver transformative improvements in connectivity.

Revised Programme Required

- 2.7 In the March Combined Authority Board Paper, it was stated that projects included within the original Delivery (Implementation) Plan have slipped for a number of factors including:
- Significant policy changes both nationally and regionally;
 - Upgrading LTN 120 / Gearchange compliance within stage design;
 - Environmental design additions due to climate change policy changes; and
 - Road space clashes with Strategic Road Network schemes.

- 2.8 As a result, this has resulted in a need for a revision to the way business cases are delivered from their stage inception.
- 2.9 The paper stated that the Combined Authority will approach the DfT to discuss a potential extension to the March 2023 delivery completion date due to the delays to project due to COVID impacts on delivery and materials availability. In addition, the paper outlined that, in agreement with DfT colleagues' and Combined Authority Board Members, recommendations would come back to the Combined Authority Board to propose replacing existing projects that are likely to underspend or slip further in 2022/23 with new projects which would be able to deliver within the required timescales.

TCF Funding for 2022/23

- 2.10 The total budget for TCF is £95m. There is likely to be a significant underspend and a need for a revised programme. The process for this is outlined below.

Need for a revised programme

- 2.11 Due to a number of concerns remaining around the deliverability of the initial TCF schemes in the timescales set out above, and corresponding potential for a significant underspend, the Combined Authority with partners (Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council, and the Greater Cambridge Partnership) have been, and will continue to, identifying potential alternative projects which are deliverable in the short term. The proposed replacement schemes will need to demonstrate a good strategic fit with the goals, aims and objectives of the TCF itself, the emerging Local Transport and Connectivity Plan and the six capitals of the Sustainable Growth Ambition Statement. These schemes will be categorised by themes that align closely with the LTCP, namely road safety; active travel; supporting growth; public transport and active travel; footway improvements; and public rights of way.
- 2.12 While alternative funding sources and delivery programmes will be considered for those initial TCF schemes that are not able to be finalised during this financial year, projects removed from the TCF programme through this exercise cannot be guaranteed alternative funding from within the CPCA's resources.
- 2.13 A clear, transparent process will be subjected to due governance and agreed by the Mayor in consultation with the other Members of the Combined Authority Board and reported to the Transport and Infrastructure Committee. Following this a final selection of schemes to be funded through the TCF will be finalised.

Liaison with central government

- 2.14 Officers will continue discussions with the DfT officials to fully understand government's expectations around the TCF with regards our spend profile, the potential for project replacements (based on the themes outlined above) and deadline for delivery.

Timescales

- 2.15 The potential revised programme will need to be agreed by the Mayor in consultation with the other Members of the Combined Authority Board to allow sufficient time to deliver the schemes to time and budget.

3. Significant Implications

- 3.1 There are no other significant implications to this report

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 It is a requirement for retention of our TCF funding that we submit this report

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 None.

6. Public Health Implications

- 6.1 Neutral impact on public health.

7. Environmental and Climate Change Implications

- 7.1 Neutral impact on environment and climate change.

8. Other Significant Implications

- 8.1 None

9. Appendices

- 9.1 None

10. Background Papers

[March CA Board Paper – Transforming Cities Fund](#)