

Head of Service: Liz Hunter, Head of Transport Policy
Author: Tom Gifford



Report to: West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Date: 14 December 2017

Subject: Transforming Cities Fund

Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12a, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1	

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide WYCA with an update on the Budget announcement around the Transforming Cities Fund.

2 Information

- 2.1 The Chancellor announced in the November 2017 Budget, the 'Transforming Cities Fund' – A £1.7 billion fund to support transport investment. The fund will target projects which drive productivity by improving connectivity, reducing congestion and utilising new mobility services and technology.
- 2.2 In the Budget, the Chancellor set out that *"half will be allocated via competition for transport projects in cities and the other half will be allocated on a per capita basis to the 6 combined authorities with elected metro mayors – £74 million for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, £243 million for Greater Manchester, £134 million for Liverpool City Region, £80 million for West of England, £250 million for West Midlands and £59 million for Tees Valley – enabling them to invest in their transport priorities."*
- 2.3 The Budget set out financial allocations for the fund as follows:
- 2018/19: £140m
 - 2019/20: £355m
 - 2020/21: £485m
 - 2021/22: £1,010m

- 2.4 The Transforming Cities Fund provides an opportunity for Leeds City Region to bid against all other cities for a share of the remaining £850m that has yet to be allocated.
- 2.5 We are assuming that the guidance will be published early in the New Year with an expectation that bids will need to be submitted during spring 2018.
- 2.6 From the information provided in the budget, it is understood that as the focus is on 'intra' (i.e. within city) connectivity. Pan-northern rail schemes such as Transpennine Route Upgrade are not expected to be included in bids for this funding, as the primary purpose of this fund is to provide new local transport links, making it easier to travel between often more prosperous city centres and frequently struggling suburbs. For example, West Midlands are utilising their allocation for major new Light Rail alignments¹ and it is understood that this type of scheme could feature in other bids.
- 2.7 For the Leeds City Region, the HS2 Connectivity Report to WYCA for December 2017 (see agenda Item 7) recommended creating our forward transformational pipeline through development of the Inclusive Growth Corridor Plans which would be developed during 2018. It is anticipated that the conclusions of these plans would form the pipeline of transformational connectivity schemes and will help shape the contents of the submission to the Transforming Cities Fund.
- 2.8 Clearly we are at the early stages of development of a potential bid. At this stage a range of options for the bid will be considered and developed with partners from across the City Region, including bringing forwards development of the transformational projects as quickly as possible on the local prioritised corridors and also considering the suitability of schemes which came forwards in the recent 'call for projects'.
- 2.9 It is proposed to continue with developing schemes areas and report back once further details are known.

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications from the report.
- 3.2 If a devolution deal had been agreed at either a Leeds City Region or Yorkshire and Humber level, the Transforming Cities Fund would have automatically delivered significant additional capital investment for the Mayor to invest in transport. The Transforming Cities Fund provides a new opportunity to secure a share of £850m to support transport investment in the Leeds City Region.

4 Legal Implications

¹ <https://www.wmca.org.uk/news/250m-government-transport-cash-signals-go-ahead-for-midland-metro-extension/>

4.1 None as a result of this report.

5 Staffing Implications

5.1 Development work has been undertaken within the WYCA Transport Policy team.

6 External Consultees

6.1 Development of the bid is proposed to be coordinated by WYCA Transport Policy in partnership with district authorities.

7 Recommendations

7.1 That WYCA note the financial position around the Transforming Cities Fund.

8 Background Documents

8.1 None.