

Project Overview

Project Title	Levelling Up - Bus Enhancement Package
Main Funding Programme	Levelling Up Fund 2 (LUF2)
Current Forecast Project cost	£47,628,832 of which: £41,248,832 is from LUF2 £6,380,000 is a local match contribution from the Combined Authority, comprising £4,000,000 from the Gainshare Capital Fund and £2,380,000 from the West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund
Funding Applied for from the Combined Authority now	£5,450,000
Other public sector funding amounts and sources	£0
Private sector funding amounts and sources	£0

Scheme Description

The Levelling Up - Bus Enhancement Package includes the Bus Station, Stops, and Highway Investment Programme (BSSHIP) programme, across West Yorkshire which will deliver bus infrastructure improvements at up to 14 bus stations and over 500 bus stops on key bus routes and address delays to bus services at 15 bus hotspot locations on the road network. These bus “hotspot” sites are key points of delay to bus services and causes of unreliability identified by bus operators.

The package will also fund sustainable transport (bus, walking, cycling) improvements on the A639 Park Road in Pontefract, and the A629 North in Halifax from Orange Street roundabout to Ogden.

The package be delivered through the Levelling Up Fund Round 2 funding award, with a local match contribution from the Combined Authority’s West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund (WY+TF) and Gainshare Capital Fund.

Approval is also being sought for £1.5 million, to support the ongoing delivery of Thirsk Row bus hotspot construction works which is already at activity 5 (Delivery). This approval will replace the existing allocation from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) programme.

Business Case Summary

Strategic Case

The £4.8 billion Levelling Up Fund (LUF) contributes to the levelling up agenda by investing in infrastructure that improves everyday life across the UK, including regenerating town centre and high streets, upgrading local transport, and investing in cultural and heritage assets. The fund is jointly managed by the Department for Transport (DfT) and the Department of Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities (DLUHC).

The package’s new and improved walking, cycling, and bus infrastructure will help reduce road congestion levels and improve local air quality, helping to deliver the West Yorkshire Mayor’s Tackle Climate Emergency pledge, Investment Priority 5: ‘Future Transport’ of the West Yorkshire

Investment Strategy 2021-2024, and principles of Inclusive Growth as set out in the Strategic Economic Framework (SEF).

Economic Case

The package's new and improved walking, cycling and bus infrastructure will remove barriers to sustainable travel in West Yorkshire, improving connectivity and accessibility to job opportunities and training for residents, particularly in areas of low income and for those with limited or no access to a car. This will help reduce road congestion levels and improve local air quality.

An indicative value for money (VfM) assessment for the package reflects a Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) of 1.76:1, classing the programme as medium value for money when assessed against the DfT's value for money criteria. The VfM assessment for the respective projects will be refined through the individual scheme business cases.

Commercial Case

The Combined Authority will largely lead the procurement and management of the bus station, stops, and highway investment programme (BSSHIP). Wakefield and Calderdale Council will lead on procuring a contractor for the A639 and A629 schemes respectively.

The Combined Authority and partner councils will consider the procurement routes available to deliver the schemes through individual business cases.

The Combined Authority and partner councils will work closely with contractors to ensure a joined-up approach to the delivery of the schemes. It will also ensure market interest and capacity with contracts which adequately balance contractor incentives against risks to the public sector.

Financial Case

In January 2023, government confirmed that the Combined Authority's bid for £41,248,832 from the Levelling Up Fund Round 2 (LUF2) was provisionally successful, subject to further business case approval.

The package cost is £47,628,832. of which £41,248,832 has been awarded from LUF2, with a £6,380,000 local match contribution from the Combined Authority. Government encouraged a local contribution of 10% or higher of the bid costs and local match funding contributions were considered during assessment of the bids. The Combined Authority's local contribution is proposed as £4,000,000 from the Gainshare Capital Fund and £2,380,000 from the West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund (WY+TF).

The package has accounted for programme and project management costs, as well as allowance for risk, contingency and inflation. Project costs will be firmed up at the next stage of business case development.

Approval is also being sought for £1,500,000 to support the ongoing delivery of Thirk Row bus hotspot construction works which is already at activity 5 (Delivery). This approval will replace the existing allocation from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) programme.

Management Case

A LUF2 Programme Board and Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) will be established, alongside the respective Project Boards for the A639 Park Road, A629 North Halifax, and BSSHIP programme.

Acquisition of third-party land and securing of necessary statutory and regulatory approvals such as planning consent and Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's) will be progressed through individual scheme business cases.