

Report to: Transport Committee

Date: 25 May 2018

Subject: **Transforming Cities Fund**

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Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:	Paragraph 3

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide an update on the development of the Transforming Cities Fund and to note the conclusions from the first member working group ahead of the stage 1 submission deadline of 8 June 2018.

2 Information

Background

- 2.1 The Combined Authority considered an overview of the Transforming Cities Fund (the 'Fund') at the meeting on 14 December 2017. A further report outlining the Department for Transport (DfT) guidance on the Fund was presented at the Combined Authority meeting of 5 April 2018.
- 2.2 The Transforming Cities Fund was announced in the Budget of November 2017 as a £1.7 billion fund to "support intra-city transport, will target projects to drive productivity by improving connectivity, reducing congestion and utilising new mobility services and technology". The government has made £840 million capital funding available for competitive bidding by non-mayoral combined authorities over the four year period to 2021-22.

2.3 The DfT guidance on the Fund outlines that bids will go through a two stage application process, with initial submissions needed by 8 June 2018. This first stage is a light touch submission which should not have regard to specific schemes. In the second stage of the process, successful city regions will work with DfT to develop scheme specific proposals.

2.4 Key points around Transforming Cities Fund include:

- £840 million of funding is available for bidding and the funding is solely capital;
- As with all other non-mayoral city regions (including South Yorkshire and the North East), the West Yorkshire Combined Authority would be anticipated to submit a competitive bid on behalf of the region;
- Bids will be competitively assessed against each other with funding awarded to the proposals which demonstrate the greatest improvements to productivity and offer the best value for money;
- The competition to access the £840 million will take a two stage application process:
 - Initial submissions need to be made to DfT by 8 June 2018. This first stage will be a light touch submission, to identify 'selected' city regions and as such, the Department will not have regard to specific schemes included in the first stage submissions;
 - In the second stage, the Department will work with up to 10 successful non mayoral city regions to develop scheme specific proposals. It is anticipated that the second stage detailed bids would be developed throughout the second half of 2018.

Working Groups

2.5 To support the development of this significant bid, at the 5 April Combined Authority meeting, it was agreed that a 'Task and Finish' working group for portfolio / lead members be set up to shape the submission.

2.6 Since this time the 'task and finish' member working group took place on 18 May 2018. A summary of the key points highlighted at the meeting has been circulated to all attendees and Transport Committee members¹.

2.7 In addition, a series of working groups are taking place with officers from partner authorities from across the Leeds City Region to enable them to input into the development of the bid. Dialogue is also continuing with the Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership as well as with private sector partners including bus operators.

2.8 As a competitive bidding process, the details around the Leeds City Region submission are contained in private appendices 1 and 2. There is an

¹ There was insufficient time to include the notes with publication of this paper.

opportunity to discuss these appendices at the end of the committee meeting.

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 The guidance sets out that whilst there is no set cap on the size of packages to be agreed, allocations to Mayoral Combined Authorities were in the range of £59-£250m. For the purposes of the first stage submission a financial allocation does not need to be defined. This would be developed through the second stage submission.

4 Legal Implications

- 4.1 As this is a competitive bidding process, the details of the submission are confidential until the submission is deposited on 8 June 2018 at which point the bid submission will be published on the Combined Authority website. This is a requirement set out in the guidance.
- 4.2 The information contained in Appendix 1 is exempt under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 to schedule 12A of the local Government Act 1972 as it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the content of the appendix as exempt outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information as publication could prejudice current and future decision making.

5 Staffing Implications

- 5.1 The bid has been overseen by the Combined Authority Policy and Strategy Team, with input from partner authorities.

6 External Consultees

- 6.1 Partner authority officers from across the Leeds City Region, as well as the private sector organisations have been involved in the development of the bid. A member working group took place around the Fund on 18 May 2018.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 That Transport Committee consider the LCR Transforming Cities Fund submission and delegate final drafting of the Stage 1 submission to the Managing Director in consultation with the Chair of Transport Committee.

8 Background Documents

5 April 2018 Report to WYCA on Transforming Cities Fund.

<http://westyorkshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=133&MIId=474&Ver=4>

Transforming Cities Fund Guidance Document:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/689407/transforming-cities-fund-call-for-proposals.pdf

10 Appendices

Appendix 1 –Leeds City Region Transforming Cities Fund Bid Overview
Presentation from the Member Working Group on 18 May 2018 (PRIVATE)

Appendix 2 – Meeting notes from the Member Working Group on 18 May 2018
(PRIVATE) *This will be circulated to committee members ahead of the meeting*