
Report to: Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Board (LEP Board)

Date: 13 June 2018

Subject: **Transforming Cities Fund**

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1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide an update on the development of the Transforming Cities Fund following the stage 1 submission on 8 June 2018 and to request formal support from the LEP Board for the stage 1 submission.

2 Information

Background

- 2.1 The Combined Authority and LEP Board have both considered an overview of the Transforming Cities Fund at the meetings on 5 April 2018 and 12 January 2018 respectively.
- 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:
 - Stage 1 submission needed to be published to Department for Transport 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 development of the second stage submission, 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.

2.5 Ahead of the Stage 1 submission, and following a member workshop on the Fund, the Combined Authority Transport Committee considered the scope and details of the stage 1 submission and delegated final drafting to the Combined Authority Managing Director in consultation with the Chair of Transport Committee.

2.6 The Leeds City Region stage 1 was issued to Government and will be published on the Combined Authority website on 8 June 2018. Paper copies of the application form will be available at the meeting. The application form allowed for only 1,500 words in total, with responses focused on clarifying the geography of submission and also prioritising the areas of focus for development through the stage 2 process. The submission materials have been circulated to LEP Board members and an initial private sector breakfast briefing was held on 31 May.

2.7 Formal support from the LEP Board will also significantly support the chances of the stage 1 submission being approved by the Department for Transport.

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 were confidential until the submission was deposited on 8 June 2018, at which point the bid submission was published on the Combined Authority website. This was a requirement set out in the guidance.

5 Staffing Implications

- 5.1 None as a result of this report.

6 External Consultees

- 6.1 Partner authority officers from across the Leeds City Region, as well as 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 and a private sector breakfast briefing was held on 31 May.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 That LEP Board support and endorse the Leeds City Region Transforming Cities Fund Stage 1 submission.
- 7.2 That the LEP Board write to the Secretary of State for Transport in support of the Leeds City Region Transforming Cities Fund Stage 1 submission. A draft letter of support is included in Appendix 1.

8 Background Documents

- 8.1 Leeds City Region Transforming Cities Fund stage 1 submission documentation (live from 8 June): <https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/transport/>

9 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft letter of support to the Leeds City Region Transforming Cities Fund Stage 1 submission