
Report to: West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Date: 5 April 2018

Subject: **Transforming Cities Fund**

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

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide an update on the Transforming Cities Fund guidance.

2 Information

- 2.1 The Combined Authority considered an overview of the Transforming Cities Fund at the 14 December 2017 meeting. As reported in December, the Chancellor announced in the November 2017 Budget, the 'Transforming Cities Fund' – 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".
- 2.2 The Transforming Cities Fund (the 'Fund') aims to improve productivity and spread prosperity through investment in new local transport infrastructure and sustainable transport in some of the largest English city regions.
- 2.3 On 13 March 2018, the DfT published the guidance around the Fund¹. The government has made £840 million available for competitive bidding over the four year period to 2021-22. The remaining funding has been devolved to

¹ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/689407/transforming-cities-fund-call-for-proposals.pdf

Mayoral Combined Authorities. The £840 million of funding is entirely capital and the guidance sets out that as with all other non-mayoral city regions, the West Yorkshire Combined Authority would be anticipated to submit a competitive bid on behalf of the region.

- 2.4 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 level of funding to be awarded to shortlisted city regions will be agreed by the Secretary of State after these proposals have been fully scrutinised.
- 2.5 The Fund is also anticipated to support the DfT 'Future of Mobility Grand Challenge'. This is one of four grand challenges established in the Industrial Strategy to improve people's lives and the country's productivity and put the UK at the forefront of the industries of the future.
- 2.6 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 submitted proposals when assessing bids. In the second stage, the Department will work with the successful 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.
- 2.7 The Government is seeking to make a small number of large investments to drive up connectivity to centres of employment. The first stage of the competition will therefore seek evidence of the case for investment, wider fit with other stakeholders and investment pots, and the ambition of a city to improve certain routes. Whilst packages may include a number of smaller investments, the aim is for successful city regions to demonstrate clear prioritisation and recognition that a significant investment on a smaller number of corridors can have a big impact.
- 2.8 Whilst the initial competition will not seek proposals for specific schemes, packages could invest in interlinked schemes such as light rail, new bus corridors, cycling and walking infrastructure or smart technology to improve flow or integrate ticketing and live journey information. Successful city regions will be expected to make use of relevant legislation, such as the Bus Services Act 2017 and work with local transport providers to create improved user experiences for passengers and drive growth on these improved services.
- 2.9 From a Leeds City Region perspective, the Leeds City Region HS2 Connectivity Strategy which has recently been engaged upon would appear to provide a strong fit with the guidance. Consideration of the Leeds City Region bid principles will be brought to the Combined Authority meeting on 10 May, as well as being brought to Transport Committee on 25 May.
- 2.10 To support the development of this significant bid, a 'Task and Finish' member working group, for portfolio or lead members could be set up to shape the submission. An officer working group is also being arranged.

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications directly arising from this report.
- 3.2 The guidance highlights the need for private sector contributions to play an important role as part of the submission.

4 Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

5 Staffing Implications

- 5.1 Development of the Transforming Cities Fund submission will be led from the existing Combined Authority transport and economic policy team. Development of the submission will require support from partners across the City Region.

6 External Consultees

- 6.1 The principles of the Transforming Cities Fund have been considered by the LEP Board, Transport Committee, Directors of Development as well as Chief Executives and Leaders.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 That the Combined Authority notes the principles of the Transforming Cities Fund guidance and the first stage deadline for submission of a bid by 8 June 2018.
- 7.2 That the Combined Authority endorses the arrangement of a member led working group for portfolio/lead members, to shape the response to the Transforming Cities Fund submission.

8 Background Documents

Transforming Cities Fund Guidance Document:

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

14 December 2017 report to the Combined Authority on Transforming Cities Fund.

9 Appendices

None.