



Black Country Executive Joint Committee
Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton

REPORT OF THE CITY DEAL AND GROWTH DEAL ADVISORY BOARD

TO

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

ON

25 NOVEMBER 2015

M6 J10 RESILIENCE PACKAGE JUNCTION IMPROVEMENTS - PHASE 1

Key Decision:	Yes
Forward Plan:	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To request that the Joint Committee approves move to contracting and subsequent award of Grant Agreement by the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) for the M6 Junction 10 (J10) Resilience Package Junction Improvements – Phase 1 from within the Local Growth Fund (LGF) Programme. The project has been identified, evaluated and recommended to proceed by the Programme Office, endorsed by the Working Group, Advisory Board and received LEP Board endorsement on 21 September 2015.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Joint Committee grants approval to the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the existing Accessing Growth Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council, adding £300k of Local Growth Funding (LGF) to support the delivery of the M6 J10 Resilience Package Junction Improvements – Phase 1 project – with delivery to commence in the 2015/16 financial year.

3. REPORT DETAIL

- 3.1 The Joint Committee received and endorsed a report on 15 June 2015 setting out the new processes to be adopted for the evaluation and approval of new projects entering the Local Growth Fund process. The LEP secretariat is currently in the transition stage from the old processes to the new arrangements as LEP Theme boards are established and membership recruited.
- 3.2 These Theme Boards are still being established, so to ensure the secretariat is still able to meet the commitments of the programme, notably achievement of the spend targets for this 2015/16 financial year, it is continuing with elements of the previous processes including drawing on the expert staff available to assess the proposed projects lifecycle the business

case against the HM treasury 5 Case Model, resulting in proposals that can then move through the LEP board and onto the Joint Committee for approval.

- 3.3 The M6 J10 Resilience Package scheme has been through this process, the details of which were reported to the City Deal and Growth Deal Advisory Board on 9 November 2015. The funding is available within the LGF programme and delivery will commence during the 2015/16 period, this application is for £300k of grant support.
- 3.4 This is an Accessing Growth funded scheme that would add value to the existing M6 J10 Transport Major scheme. M6 J10 Resilience Package includes improvements to three junctions, which will complement the major improvements planned for junction 10 of the M6 motorway. The three junctions included in the package are located less than 2 miles north of M6 J10 and form part of a strategic route to the motorway for key employers in the Leamore, Bloxwich and Bentley areas of Walsall. As the construction of M6 J10 will cause disruption to the local road network, it is essential to support alternative routes during the works. The local road network to the south of M6 J10 is currently benefiting from improvements as part of the Darlaston Strategic Development Access Project.
- 3.5 The three proposed junction improvements will not only support the movement of traffic during the M6 J10 construction phase, but continue to mitigate against congestion and bring benefits to the network for future years.
- 3.6 Phase 1 of the package enables carriageway widening for the junction of Bentley Lane/Bloxwich Lane. For this prior land acquisition and utility diversionary works to the value of £300K are required. It is important that phase one is completed in 2015/16 to enable full scheme delivery in 2016/17.
- 3.7 The project will return with a full business case for phase 2 with funding to commence in 2016/17.
- 3.8 **Start date:** The project is ready to move forward with the land transaction. Acquisition of the land and the diversion works of utility services will be undertaken in the 2015/16 financial year.
- 3.9 **Headline Outputs Include:** Acquisition of land and utility diversionary works at Bentley Lane / Bloxwich Lane junction.
- 3.10 **Funding Profile:** Total Project Investment - £1.55m, **LGF requested in this application - £300k**, with the full £300k is profiled to spend in 2015/16.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The costs associated with this proposal forms part of the LGF programme and will be covered by allocations from government associated with this programme. This includes the use of any interest accrued by the Accountable Body to cover costs associated with the delivery of Accountable Body functions, as approved by its (Walsall Council) Cabinet on the 29th October 2014.
- 4.2 The applicant (Walsall Council) will utilise its processes and procedures to ensure that best value is achieved and that all EU State Aid rules and regulations are met by all beneficiaries of LGF funding.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Growth Deal has standard Grant Agreement templates in place which will be utilised by the Accountable Body (Walsall Council), and include all conditions passed onto the LEP by Government, together with all terms, conditions, performance measures and sanctions as required by the approvals/conditions received from Government or approved by the LEP Board or the Joint Committee.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk is being managed through the on-going assessment of individual projects and their ability to deliver the required spending profiles and outcomes for the programme as required or agreed with Government and set into place by the LEP Board or the Joint Committee.

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

None at the time of drafting.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Prior consultation includes engagement with the Statutory Undertakers (Utilities), where they were informed of the proposals and C3 estimates were obtained. Highways England were consulted regarding the bridge structure on Bentley Lane and carrying out improvements on Highways England land. Land acquisition negotiations were undertaken with the NHS for land bordering Jubilee House on the junction of Bentley Lane/Bloxwich Lane. Internal to Walsall Council the following teams have been involved with the project planning/delivery: Traffic Management, Highways Maintenance, Road Safety, Urban Traffic Control (Traffic Signals) and the Major Projects Team (Scheme Delivery).
- 8.2 Highways England and Walsall MBC are holding three joint public consultation events for the M6 J10 major project in December 2015. These events will be used to share information around the resilience package, as the two projects are closely linked. A separate local public event is also planned closer to the Bentley Lane area to provide information to those who will be directly affected by the carriageway widening works.
- 8.3 The resilience package includes improvements at three junctions; these junctions are covered by three separate wards. The ward members have been identified and once funding has been awarded, will be invited to attend the public consultation events and will be notified directly of the proposals with the offer of one to one consultation if required.
- 8.4 Jubilee House, located at the junction of Bentley Lane / Bloxwich Lane is a former ambulance station and is now used for NHS administration. NHS property services are a key stakeholder in this process and have agreed to work towards Walsall MBC acquiring a section of their land subject to valuation and approval of final plans. The NHS property services and staff using Jubilee House will be directly consulted during the detailed design and construction process.

Back Ground papers

Revised Process for Evaluation of Local Growth Fund bids - Joint Committee Paper 17th June 2015

The Black Country Strategic Economic Plan (SEP)

M6 J10 Resilience Package Junction Improvements – Phase 1 Initial

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