



**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**

**22 June 2016**

### **Black Country Local Growth Deal – ACCESSING GROWTH** **MAJOR SCHEME DEVELOPMENT 2016/17 - CITY NORTH GATEWAY - A449** **STAFFORD ROAD CORRIDOR, WOLVERHAMPTON TO I54**

#### **Approval to Amend the existing Accessing Growth Grant Agreement**

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<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Forward Plan:</b>	<b>Yes</b>

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#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To request that the Joint Committee grants the approval, contracting and subsequent amendment of an existing Grant Agreement by the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) for the “A449 Stafford Road Corridor – Wolverhampton to I54” from within the Local Growth Fund (LGF) Programme

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee grants the approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to amend the existing Grant Agreement with the City of Wolverhampton Council **to the value of £150,000** to support the development of proposals to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the A449 Stafford Road Corridor, Wolverhampton to I54 Accessing Growth development project.
- 2.2 This project has been endorsed by the Working Group and received LEP Board approval on 16 May 2016 and was endorsed by the Advisory Board on 10 June 2016.

#### **3. REPORT DETAIL**

- 3.1 The Stafford Road A449 corridor is identified within the West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan (WMSTP) as a phase 2 HS2 Connectivity Package potential SPRINT route and a key element of the metropolitan cycle network. The Wolverhampton Stafford Road Area Action Plan (AAP) includes a 2026 vision for the corridor as having enhancements to public transport, walking, cycling and highway networks, which will have taken place to maintain sustainable transport patterns. The AAP also includes detail for transport proposals within the corridor, and relevant policy considerations. In

Dec 2015 the ITA endorsed the conclusions of the Black Country Rapid Transit Study, which placed the public transport connectivity between Wolverhampton City Centre and i54 as one of 4 Black Country priorities.

- 3.2 The emerging South Staffordshire Site Allocation Document includes 80Ha of further employment land to be developed to the North of Wolverhampton, including an extension to the western side of i54.
- 3.3 As a major regeneration corridor within the Black Country it is essential that access for businesses, residents, workers and students is maintained and that growth can be accommodated. In order to progress major scheme proposals for essential transportation improvements along the corridor, development funding for initial study work is required.
- 3.4 There are a number of junctions along the corridor which present existing issues of congestion and delay to travellers, and do not currently have the potential to accommodate a rapid transit proposal. Given the size and scale of the corridor and likely costs it is proposed to take a phased approach to delivery of improvements across a number of years. The detail of the phasing, specific junctions for improvement, the type of works required and realistic cost estimates; along with indicative BCR's for each deliverable element will need to be established initially. The development funding available in 2016/17 will support the commissioning of a corridor model and initial design options for pinch points on the network.
- 3.5 Phase 1 of the corridor has already been identified as Vine Island to Junction 2 and a Strategic Outline Case and Initial Proposal to the LEP have been submitted. As part of the corridor development work a full business case for this element will also be progressed to allow (subject to funding) for delivery on site to commence this financial year.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Modelling work and development of the Stafford Road corridor transport proposals has been included within the Transportation Capital Programme for 2016/17.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Approval to progress with the scheme development has previously been secured through the City of Wolverhampton Council transportation capital programme report to Cabinet. The City of Wolverhampton Council will enter into the relevant funding agreement with Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council as Accountable Body for the Growth Deal.

#### **6. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 None

#### **7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 None

## **8. CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 Consultation will commence with local residents and businesses once the scheme has been sufficiently developed.
- 8.2 Legal and financial services at the relevant authority have been consulted on this report and a Joint Committee Consultation Sheet was completed.

### **Back Ground papers**

- A449 Stafford Road Corridor Initial Proposal

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