



**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**

**WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST 2015**

**Black Country Local Growth Deal – Managing Short Trips, Additional Schemes**

**Grant Agreement Approval**

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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 present the recommendations of the City Deal and Growth Deal Advisory Board and request that the Joint Committee approve the contracting and subsequent award of Grant Agreement by the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) for the 'Managing Short Trips – Additional Schemes' project 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 City Deal and Growth Deal Working Group and received Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Board endorsement on the 14 July 2015.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee grants approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Centro to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the 'Managing Short Trips – Additional Schemes' project - with delivery to commence in the 2015/16 financial year. This project is already in delivery and the additional grant of £715,000 will be awarded via a contract variation to the existing approved scheme.

### **3. REPORT DETAIL**

- 3.1 The Managing Short Trips Programme was first identified as one of the 16 strategic priorities in the BCSEP back in March 2014, before receiving government approval and subsequent investment of £4.2m as part of the LGF Round 1. As an extension of the existing programme, Centro, in collaboration with the relevant districts, are proposing to deliver a number of additional schemes for which LGF capital grant is requested.
- 3.2 **Project Description:** The Managing Short Trips (MST) programme will continue to regenerate active travel in the region to enable greater accessibility in the Black Country by improving cycling and walking infrastructure in targeted areas of the region. This tranche of four additional schemes will build on the current MST schemes being delivered, to support the reduction of congestion on the network and economic aspirations to unlock further investment at key economic sites including the four Black Country Strategic Centres (Wolverhampton, Walsall, Brierley Hill and West Bromwich) and Black Country Enterprise Zone.
- 3.3 **Start date:** The schemes are 'shovel ready' and Centro and the relevant districts have the capacity to support delivery in 2015/16 if approval to proceed is granted by August 2015. This is because the delivery teams will be able to move straight on to these new schemes, which are effectively extensions of some of the current MST schemes.
- 3.4 **Headline Outputs Include:** 3.76 km of cycle path.
- 3.5 **Funding Profile:** Total Project Investment - £712k, LGF requested - £712k, No Match Funding. The profiled spend is £585,000 in 2015/16 and £128,000 in 2016/17.

### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The costs associated with this project will be covered by allocations from government associated with LGF 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.

### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The appropriate Grant Agreement will be prepared by the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) and will 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**

- 6.1 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**

- 7.1 None at the time of drafting

## **8. CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 The LEP Board and the Programme Management Office at the Consortium, as well as Legal and Finance leads at Centro, have been consulted in line with the Joint Committee protocols.

### **Background Papers**

- Revised Process for Evaluation of Local Growth Fund bids - Joint Committee Paper 17th June 2015
- The Black Country Strategic Economic Plan (SEP)

### **Attachments**

1. Managing Short Trips – Additional Schemes – Business Case Executive Summary
2. MST Canal Schemes – existing and proposed

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