



Report to Economic & Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

Report of: Edward Highfield, Executive Director, City Growth

Subject: Transforming Cities Fund – engagement and delivery challenges

Author of Report: Tom Finnegan-Smith, Head of Strategic Transport, Sustainability and Infrastructure, City Growth

Summary: The Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) is a Department for Transport (DfT) fund which aims to drive up productivity by investing in new local transport infrastructure.

Sheffield City Region (SCR) is due to submit a final strategic outline business case seeking funding by 28 November 2019 on behalf of the four South Yorkshire Districts, following approval by the Mayoral Combined Authority.

This Scrutiny report summarises

- the Sheffield-related component of the TCF bid
- how the proposal priorities were determined
- a suggested way forward for Members, stakeholders and the wider city to engage with, and make the most of, this opportunity

It is presented to Scrutiny in order to better brief Members. Scrutiny forms part of important work to examine and gain wider understanding and hence support for emerging proposals, given the scale of investment Sheffield is seeking for sustainable transport interventions – estimated at between £50m-£85m. An Individual Cabinet Member Decision (ICMD) relating to TCF (2b) is scheduled by 08/11/2019 and an exemption from Call-In has been sought.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	X
Other	

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

Scrutiny is asked to consider and comment upon the emerging TCF proposals in view of SCR's Transforming Cities Prospectus and the evidence base already assembled in the Sheffield Transport Strategy (2019), along with the proposed engagement and consultation.

Background Papers:

1) TCF briefing note for Ward Members (attached)

2) ICMD report – TCF bid: Sheffield City Council section of the SCR bid to the DfT

<http://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=29412&Opt=0>

3) SCR Transforming Cities Prospectus (attached)

4) Sheffield Transport Strategy (March 2019)

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/travel-transport/transport-strategy-plans>

Category of Report: OPEN (please specify)

Report of the Director of City Growth – Title of report – Transforming Cities Fund – engagement and delivery challenges

1. Introduction/Context

- 1.1 The Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) is a Department for Transport (DfT) fund which aims to drive up productivity by investing in new local, sustainable transport infrastructure.
- 1.2 A final strategic outline business case is due to be submitted by Sheffield City Region (SCR) by 28 November 2019 on behalf of the four South Yorkshire Districts, following approval by the Mayoral Combined Authority.
This report summarises
 - the Sheffield-related component of the TCF bid
 - how the proposal priorities were determined
 - a suggested way forward for Members, stakeholders and the wider city to engage with, and make the most of, this opportunity
- 1.3 It is presented to Scrutiny in order to better brief Members and gain wider understanding and hence support for emerging proposals. This is deemed to be especially important given the challenge of delivering such major schemes in the compressed timescale for completion set down by Government to 2023 and the scale of investment Sheffield is seeking.
- 1.4 It is also considered appropriate given that an exemption from call-in has been sought for the Individual Cabinet Member Decision (ICMD) relating to TCF(2b), and also that existing TCF projects are under way using the much smaller, and successful, first phase TCF bid (2a).

2. Main body of report, matters for consideration, etc

- 2.1 TCF represents substantial Government investment in sustainable travel – walking and cycling (also known as active travel) and public transport – over the next four years. It is currently in year one of implementation amongst city regions such as Sheffield – those without, as yet, an agreed devolution deal. Those city regions with signed devolution deals received funding as of right, known as tranche 1a). Sheffield is engaged in a bidding process, with guidance from DfT as proposals are developed, for 2b) funding.
- 2.2 TCF Tranche 2a) is already underway in Sheffield with the £2m funding released by DfT available for immediate investment. We have prioritised a series of schemes, elements of which have been in development and delivery for a number of years. These are as follows
- Extending the off road cycle route on Charter Row through to Hanover Way as part of ongoing works to link Sheffield Hallam University's City Campus to Collegiate Campus. Current budget estimates total £425,000 plus £150,000 for the Broomhall Road / Hanover IRR crossing. There is also a potential PFI opportunity scheme to upgrade the nearby Broomspring Lane / Hanover Way IRR crossing, which is currently estimated at £90,000.
 - Building two crossing points on the Portobello/Trippet Lane cycle route to complete the University of Sheffield to city centre link – at Mappin Street and at Holly Street/West Street junction into and out of Barkers Pool. Current allocation for these works is £703,000. Both schemes include cycle parking and automatic cycle counters and construction is scheduled to start in January and be complete before the end of the 2019/20 financial year
 - Procuring a range of up to 200 electric bikes at an estimated cost of £335k. Of these, 185 electric hybrids will be offered for use via a social prescribing scheme working with a third sector provider. A further ten e-bikes will be supplied to South Yorkshire Police's Community Support Officers and Council Civil Enforcement Officers, along with five e-trikes for projects benefiting elderly and disabled people
- 2.3 The next proposed tranche of TCF (2b) is the much larger scale £215m funding currently the subject of an SCR bid to DfT, of which Sheffield's share is expected to be between £50m and £85m. Confirmation is expected from Government by March 2020 with spend due to start the immediate financial year following and the programme complete by March 2023.

In view of the pace and scale of the programme emerging, additional revenue funding has been allocated to develop proposals further.

- 2.4 The attached TCF Briefing Note for Members gives greater detail on the proposals including
- the split between active travel and public transport led interventions (50/50)
 - how and why the proposed areas were selected

- consistency with the Transport Strategy's aims to support Sheffield's economic, environmental and equality priorities (see attachment pp31-34) and
 - the DfT criteria to drive up productivity through improved connections between urban centres and suburbs by prioritising sustainable travel options (see SCR's Transforming Cities Prospectus)
- 2.5 There is a financial risk to the Council in that funds are being invested in developing schemes that may not come to fruition, either because insufficient funding is secured from DfT overall or because the proposals, should they be seen as unacceptable by local communities, may preclude Member support.
- 2.6 The proposals involve potentially significant changes to the way we use our streets. Developing options to provide greater priority for public transport and create safe routes for cycling may impact on sensitive issues including kerbside parking, street trees and vehicle access.
- 2.7 In view of the above, and in accord with the Sheffield Transport Strategy, it is proposed that schemes will be developed in conjunction with local communities, involving them in devising proposals and reaching acceptable solutions by consent. However, it should be acknowledged that limited Council resources, compressed DfT timescales and SCR Governance may impinge on opportunities to do so.
- 2.8 In addition, all schemes will be subject to further scrutiny as they will require the creation of Traffic Regulation Orders, giving the public opportunity to raise formal objections. Member(s) will decide on the merits of these, either via an ICMD or, in view of the potential scale and controversial nature of proposals, via Cabinet Highways Committee, Cabinet or Council.
- 2.9 This represents the opportunity for the democratic process rightly to assert itself, and Members to mediate on the difficult questions that arise balanced with the totality of benefits that accrue from the specific sustainable transport interventions proposed.

3 What does this mean for the people of Sheffield?

- 3.1 TCF represents the first batch of funding to enable a generational opportunity to begin to change how transport works for the better in Sheffield. More such funding, and at increasing levels, will be required to make the transformation city-wide. Given the scale of change involved, people will need to be brought with the Council in this process as opposed to solutions imposed from above.
- 3.2 Whilst the Council is rightly ambitious in making such changes, as evidenced by the declaration of a Climate Emergency, the scale of the challenge should not be underestimated both in terms of successfully engaging with the public and delivering the schemes themselves. Potential disruption during construction, the scale and pace involved, and the changes that people will need to make are likely to mean significant numbers feel they are losing out or, conversely, missing out as a result.

3.3 The need to engage, build trust in local communities and remain open to change will be a two way process that continues way beyond the life of this phase of TCF.

4. Recommendation

4.1 The Committee is asked to consider the implications for the Council in committing to this large scale programme for sustainable transport in Sheffield. Comments are particularly invited on how engagement with the public and stakeholders can help to start mapping out a way forward in bringing the people of Sheffield along with us in delivering the major change involved.

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