

BERKSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT BODY (BLTB)

REPORT TO: BLTB

DATE: 14 March 2019

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PART I

Item 8: Revised Local Growth Fund Programme 2015/16 to 2020/21 - Update

Purpose of Report

1. To give consideration to granting programme entry status to a new scheme from the July 2018 prioritised list (see Appendix 1) following confirmation from Slough Borough Council that, due to complexities of land ownership, scheme 2.41 Slough: SMaRT Phase 3 A4 West Park and Ride cannot be delivered by the required March 2021 timing.

Recommendation

2. You are recommended to grant programme entry status for scheme 2.42 Wokingham: Barkham Bridge for £4,265,431

Other Implications

Financial

3. The LGF programme covers six financial years, 2015-16 to 2020-21, and the expectation is that the funds allocated to Thames Valley Berkshire LEP will be spent in that period, or failing that, fully committed to schemes that have started on site by March 2021 and have a “tail” of funding carried over into financial year 2021-22.
4. In January 2019, Reading Borough Council (RBC), had notified the LEP that they could not achieve a start on site for the East Reading (ER) MRT scheme in the required time limit. Your meeting in January agreed to the reallocation of £14,584,931 to six schemes, and postponed a decision about a seventh scheme, 2.41 Slough SMaRT Phase 3 A4 West Park and Ride.
5. This report recommends that a new seventh scheme, 2.42 Wokingham: Barkham Bridge, replaces the scheme previously indicated.
6. The amount available for reallocation is £5,648,069, as set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Reallocation amounts

	Unallocated amount as at November 2018	1,166,000	
Add:	2.14 and 2.25 East Reading MRT phases 1 and 2	19,067,000	
			20,233,000

Less:	2.35 Reading: Reading West Station Upgrade	3,100,000	
	2.36 Wokingham: Coppid Beech Park and Ride	2,400,000	
	2.37 Bracknell: A322 A329 Corridor Improvements	1,200,000	
	2.38 Theale: Theale Station Park and Rail Upgrade	4,000,000	
	2.39 Wokingham: Coppid Beech northbound on-slip widening	2,322,431	
	2.40 Windsor: Town Centre Package	1,562,500	
		14,584,931	
	Unallocated amount as at 14 March 2019		5,648,069
Less:			
if agreed	2.42 Wokingham: Barkham Bridge	4,235,641	
	Available		1,412,428

7. Although the vast majority of LGF is ringfenced for strategic transport schemes there remains the possibility that the LEP will bring forward skills or enterprise capital projects for consideration, if these offer VfM, make more of a strategic impact and can be delivered swiftly. The LEP Board will be discussing this on 12 March 2019.

Risk Management

8. There remains a risk that the new scheme identified in this report will be unable to mobilise quickly enough to achieve the necessary start on site by March 2021; in that event any LGF not committed would be liable for return the government unspent.
9. This risk has been anticipated and reassurances have been given by Wokingham Borough Council that this scheme is already in development and will be able to start on site in the required time.

Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

10. Slough Borough Council will provide legal support for the BLTB should any questions arise.

Supporting Information

11. At your meeting in July 2018, a list of 16 potential LGF schemes was considered and prioritised. They are listed at Appendix 1. See Appendix 2 for short summaries of each scheme and hyperlinks to detailed scheme proformas.
12. Following the delay to the progress of scheme 2.14 and 2.25 East Reading MRT Phases 1 and 2, and the subsequent confirmation from the scheme promoter that it could not be delivered within the current Local Growth Fund (LGF) programme, i.e. by the end of 2020/21, it was agreed at the January 2019 meeting of the BLTB to re-allocate £19,067,000 LGF previously awarded.
13. Six schemes were taken from the previously agreed (July 2018) prioritised list and granted programme entry status. Those schemes were:

- a. 2.35 Reading: Reading West Station Upgrade
 - b. 2.36 Wokingham: Coppid Beech Park and Ride
 - c. 2.37 Bracknell: A322 A329 Corridor Improvements
 - d. 2.38 Theale: Theale Station Park and Rail Upgrade
 - e. 2.39 Wokingham: Coppid Beech northbound on-slip widening
 - f. 2.40 Windsor: Town Centre Package
14. A seventh scheme, 2.41 Slough: SMaRT Phase 3 A4 West Park and Ride was deferred for consideration of programme entry status until the March 2019 BLTB meeting.
 15. It has now been confirmed by Slough Borough Council that due to complexities of land ownership that this scheme cannot be delivered by the required March 2021 timing.
 16. Therefore, the next scheme in the priority list, Wokingham: Barkham Bridge is now being considered. The scheme is to build a new bridge next to the existing Barkham Bridge (located between Barkham Street and Langley Common Road) to facilitate 2-way traffic through the existing bottleneck. The current Barkham Bridge structure is only wide enough to accommodate a single lane of traffic and currently operates a priority give way traffic system, causing a bottleneck, queues and delays.
 17. The scheme will also help to support the Arborfield Garrison Strategic Development Location (SDL). The Arborfield Garrison location is identified in the Wokingham Borough Core Strategy as being capable of accommodating around 3,500 new dwellings with associated transport and green community infrastructure.
 18. Wokingham Borough Council colleagues have confirmed that the scheme is already in development and that much of the early preparation work has been completed. They are confident that if funding is agreed, a start on site can be achieved before March 2021.

Overall priorities for the LEP LGF programme

19. By 26 March 2019 there will be clarity on whether any skills or enterprise capital projects will be competing for LGF. As noted in the financial implications section above, there will be at least £1.41m unallocated in March.
20. A further report will be made to the July meeting.

Conclusion

21. The scheme to alleviate the bottleneck at Barkham Bridge is a viable scheme, that meets the criteria for support from these funds and is worthy of your support.

APPENDIX 1 – Local Growth Deal list of prioritised schemes agreed in July 2018

	Weighting Factor	1.5	2	4	1.5	0.5	0.5			GD3	
	Factor	SEP	Deliverable	Econ Impact	TVB area	Natural Capital	Social Value	Total Score	Rank	£m Bid for	Cumulative
2.31	Slough: Stoke Road Area Regeneration	4.5	6	12	3	1	1.5	28	1=	7,650,000	Programme entry July 18
2.32	Maidenhead: Housing Sites Enabling Works	4.5	6	12	3	1	1.5	28	1=	4,660,000	Programme entry July 18
2.33	GWR: Maidenhead to Marlow Branch Line Upgrade	4.5	6	8	4.5	1	1.5	25.5	3	1,525,000	Programme entry July 18
2.35	Reading: Reading West Station Upgrade	4.5	6	8	3	1	1.5	24	4=	3,100,000	Programme entry Jan 19
2.36	Wokingham: Coppid Beech Park and Ride	4.5	6	8	3	1.5	1	24	4=	2,400,000	Programme entry Jan 19
2.37	Bracknell: A322 A329 Corridor Improvements	4.5	6	8	3	0.5	1.5	23.5	6=	1,200,000	Programme entry Jan 19
2.38	Theale: Theale Station Park and Rail Upgrade	4.5	6	8	3	1	1	23.5	6=	4,000,000	Programme entry Jan 19
2.39	Wokingham: Coppid Beech northbound on-slip widening	4.5	6	8	3	0.5	1	23	8	2,322,431	Programme entry Jan 19
2.40	Windsor: Town Centre Package	4.5	4	8	3	1	1	21.5	9	1,562,500	Programme entry Jan 19
2.41	Slough: SMaRT Phase 3 A4 West Park and Ride	4.5	2	8	3	0.5	0.5	18.5	10	4,160,000	Deferred
2.42	Wokingham: Barkham Bridge	3	4	8	1.5	0.5	1	18	11	4,235,641	Recommended
	Slough: A355 Route Enhancement Phase 2	4.5	2	8	1.5	0.5	0.5	17	12	3,600,000	
	Slough: Town Centre to M4 Junction 6 Link	3	2	8	1.5	0.5	1	16	13	9,600,000	
	Wokingham: Tan House Crossing	4.5	2	4	1.5	1	1	14	14	1,200,000	
	Slough: Chalvey Regeneration	3	2	4	3	0.5	0.5	13	15	28,000,000	
	Wokingham: California Crossroads	1.5	4	4	1.5	0.5	1	12.5	16	3,581,129	

Appendix 2

Rank	Bidder	Short Title	Short Description	Notes	Amount Sought
1=	Slough	Slough Stoke Road Area Regeneration	Sustainable transport infrastructure and highway works to support regeneration of six major brownfield sites at Stoke Road and improved interchange and parking at Slough station.	Programme Entry July 2018	7,650,000
1=	Windsor and Maidenhead	Maidenhead Housing Sites Enabling Works Phases 1 and 2	Junction improvements and new highway infrastructure required to deliver major housing developments and town centre regeneration in Maidenhead. Phase 1 £5.825m; phase 2 £21.300m.	Programme Entry July 2018	4,660,000
3	GWR	GWR Maidenhead to Marlow Branch Line Upgrade	Infrastructure works to allow two direct trains per hour between Marlow and Maidenhead and improvements to intermediate stations See note at paragraph 15 below	Programme Entry July 2018	1,525,000
4=	Reading	Reading West Station Upgrade	Delivering improved passenger experience and multi-modal interchange through a new station building, highway changes and improvements to platform facilities and the Tilehurst Road entrance.	Programme Entry January 2019	3,100,000
4=	Wokingham	Wokingham Coppid Beech Park and Ride	Coppid Beech Park and Ride will improve access to Wokingham and Bracknell Town centres, railway stations and employment sites by tackling congestion in east Wokingham.	Programme Entry January 2019	2,400,000
6=	Bracknell Forest	Bracknell A322 A329 Corridor Improvements	Capacity improvements to two key junctions along the A329/A322 corridor building on schemes delivered through the Local Growth, Pinch Point and National Productivity Investment Funds.	Programme Entry January 2019	1,200,000
6=	West Berkshire	Theale Station Park and Rail Upgrade	Station enhancements at Theale to improve sustainable transport interchange, increase Park and Rail capacity and enhance customer facilities.	Programme Entry January 2019	4,000,000
8	Wokingham	Wokingham Coppid Beech northbound on-slip widening	Widening of the northbound on-slip at the Coppid Beech (A329(M)/London Road) Junction.	Programme Entry January 2019	2,322,431
9	Windsor and Maidenhead	Windsor Town Centre Package	Measures to improve pedestrian priority and streetscape around the castle and eastern gateway, purchase of vehicles for a demand-responsive bus service, and car park expansion.	Programme Entry January 2019	1,562,500
10	Slough	Slough SMaRT Phase 3 A4 West Park and Ride	<i>Park and ride to serve Slough, Maidenhead and Windsor town centres with bus priorities on the A4 to link with SMaRT Phase 1 infrastructure.</i>	<i>Deferred</i>	<i>4,160,000</i>
11	Wokingham	Wokingham Barkham Bridge	A new bridge next to the existing Barkham Bridge (located between Barkham Street and Langley Common Road) to facilitate 2-way traffic through the existing bottleneck.	Recommended for programme entry	4,235,641
12	Slough	Slough A355 Route Enhancement Phase 2	Extending the existing A355 Route Enhancement to address congestion north of the Three Tuns A4/A355 intersection with carriageway widening, bus priorities and a new footbridge.		3,600,000
13	Slough	Slough Town Centre to M4 Junction 6 Link	Link between A332 and A355 to provide a direct route from Slough town centre to M4 Junction 6 avoiding A4 Bath Road and Tuns Lane.		9,600,000
14	Wokingham	Wokingham Tan House Crossing	A new Disability Discrimination Act compliant crossing of the railway where an at-grade crossing was previously provided. A temporary footbridge is currently provided but is not "step free".		1,200,000
15	Slough	Slough Chalvey Regeneration	Conversion of heavy rail to bus-based mass rapid transit, new roads, pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, flood alleviation and waste heat recovery to support regeneration.		28,000,000
16	Wokingham	Wokingham California Crossroads	A public realm project that will deliver an enhanced user experience for residents, shoppers, patrons and all who travel through California Crossroads.		3,581,129