

BERKSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT BODY (BLTB)

REPORT TO: BLTB

DATE: 4 June 2020

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Chief Executive to the BLTB

Item 3: Covid 19 and Local Growth Fund timing update

Purpose of Report

1. To review current information regarding the impact of Covid 19 on remaining Local Growth Fund infrastructure schemes.
2. To review completion dates of remaining Local Growth Fund (LGF) infrastructure schemes.

Recommendation

3. That this report be noted.

Other Implications

Financial

4. A full financial report will be submitted to the July 2020 Berkshire Local Transport Body meeting.

Risk Management

5. The 2020/21 LGF allocation for Thames Valley Berkshire LEP is £19,874,541. In May 2020 two thirds of this funding will be paid to the LEP's Accountable Body, with the remaining third being held by government. This final third will be released pending evidence that schemes are contractually committed by September 2020 and able to receive final payments by March 2021.

Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

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

Supporting Information

7. The [UK Government's position](#) is to allow the construction and infrastructure industry to continue operating where it can do so safely.
8. Following the outbreak of the current Covid-19 pandemic, TVBLEP has been working closely with local transport officers to gauge the impact on extant schemes.

9. Whilst the situation continues to evolve, work continues on almost all schemes, albeit at a slower rate of progress, mainly driven by the 2-meter social distancing measures.
10. Whilst constant re-assessment of scheme progress continues, to this point we have not been informed of any significant project delay, although the true impact will only become apparent in the coming weeks.
11. Related to this situation is the impending conclusion by March 2021 of the LGF funding envelope. To summarise:
 - LGF funds: all financial payments by the LEP must be completed by March 2021.
 - There a number of extant schemes that are scheduled to finish post March 2021. Of the 26 schemes currently in progress, 10 have post March '21 completion dates – see table 1 below.
 - LEP guidance to officers has been to ensure scheme delivery is in calendar year 2021.
 - TVBLEP is working with our S151 officer to review possible Local Authority “capital swap” options for payment to schemes running past March 2021.

Table 1

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Promoter</u>	<u>Project Completion date</u>
2.42	Eastern Gateway (BRRP funded)	WBC	Apr-21
2.06	Green Park Station	RBC	May-21
2.05	Sandelford Park	West Berks	Sep-21
2.29	Winnersh Triangle P&R*	WBC	Sep-21
2.35	Reading West Station*	RBC	Sep-21
2.36	Coppid Beech P&R*	WBC	Oct-21
2.28	Bracknell A3095	BFC	Nov-21
2.31	Slough Stoke Rd Regen	SBC	Mar-22
<u>BLTB pending approvals June/July</u>			
2.40	Windsor TC package*	RBWM	May-21
2.38	Theale Station upgrade*	West Berks	Dec-21

*These projects have not yet started on site.

Conclusion

12. TVBLEP will continue to work with Local Authority Transport Officers and other relevant parties to monitor remaining schemes and ensure timely delivery.