

Western Gateway Sub-national Transport Body

Board Meeting

Paper A

Date **21st July 2021**

Title of report: **2021/22 Work Programme and Financial update**

Purpose of report: **To provide an update on work programme and budget position of Western Gateway Sub-National Transport Body.**

Recommendations:

The members of the Board are recommended to:

- I. Note the update on delivery progress and overall programme
- II. Agree to revise the scope of the Bus and Coach Project to focus on Coach elements only, following issue of the National Bus Strategy
- III. Agree to rephrase the delivery of the Alternative Fuels project, subject to issue of the Department for Transport's Decarbonisation Plan and Electric Charging Vehicle Strategy
- IV. Agree to revise the Rail programme scope following issue of the Williams-Shapps Plan for Rail
- V. Agree to revise the parking targets in the Rail Strategy
- VI. Ratify the request to work jointly with the Peninsula STB to produce a joint Freight Strategy
- VII. Agree to delegate any amendments to scope to the Senior Officers Group based on the outcomes of discussions with National STB group and following the publication of the Department for Transport's Decarbonisation, Electric Vehicles, Rural Mobility Strategies
- VIII. Note the financial update
- IX. Provide views and input into shaping the forward work programme for the next 3 years.

Introduction

- 1.1 This report contains an update on project progress, including requests for decisions on the 2021/22 forward plan.
- 1.2 This report contains an update on the Western Gateway STB's financial position.

Work Programme

1.3 To date the STB Programme team have delivered.

Delivered by	Project	Status
2019/20	Story of Place - Regional Evidence Base	Completed
	Economic Connectivity Study	Completed
	Major Road Network and Large Local Major scheme submission	Completed
	Sub-National Rail Strategy – Phase 1	Completed
2020/21	Port Access Study	Completed
	Sub-national Rail Strategy – Phase 2	Completed
	Draft Strategic Transport Plan (2020-2025)	Completed
	Strategic Modelling Review Study	Completed

1.4 The current work programme is stated below:

Delivery in 2021/22	
Project	Current Forecasted Outcome
Strategic Model	Strategic modelling capability to provide a robust evidence base that underpins the Strategic Transport Plan
Strategic Transport Plan 2025-2050 Phase 1 Baseline and Scenario Plan	A report describing a clear narrative for the corridor and recommendations for future year scenario options to take forward for the Stage 2 Technical Assessment including phasing on schemes / initiatives for modelling.
Strategic Transport Plan 2025-2050 Phase 2 Technical Assessment	A technical report outlining the methodology used to undertake the assessment. The report will also appraise the impact of each scenario for each forecast year – this should include a technical assessment against the social / economic / environmental criteria agreed within the methodology report
Strategic Transport Carbon Audit	Carbon baseline for transport, scenario and forecasting tool with underpinning data
Freight Strategy	Freight Strategy that will be used to champion and support investment in schemes that ensure strategic freight movements are optimised and aligned with objectives of the wider long term STP with a proposed programme for investment. Compliments the national freight project that the Department for Transport are developing.
Rural Mobility	An understanding of the challenges faced by rural areas and opportunities for measures that facilitate decarbonisation without disadvantaging rural communities. Provide a supporting document and evidence base for the longer term STP with a proposed programme for investment.
Alternative Fuels Vehicle Strategy	Identify opportunities for Alternative Fuel provision for freight, private and passenger transport to support decarbonisation targets and to support our corridor based STP. Regional view of how policy could be adapted to WGSTB area.
Strategic Rail implementation	Proposed in Rail Paper

Delivery in 2021/22	
Project	Current Forecasted Outcome
Strategic Bus and Coach Strategy	Request to amend scope detailed in paper below – change to focus on Coach: Baseline scope - Building on the publication of the National Bus will identify the regional strategy for bus as a key mode in the regional WG context. Proposed revised scope - Identify opportunities to supporting of the coach industry
Delivery in 2022/23	
Project	Current Forecasted Outcome
Strategic Transport Plan Horizon 2025-2050 – Phase 3 Strategy	Longer term Strategic Transport Plan to 2050
Rail Strategy implementation	To be agreed

1.5 Schemes in delivery - progress update:

- **Strategic Model**
 - The project is on track for completion in September. The WSP team are progressing with updating the Base Year model and work on the external forecasting system is underway.
 - The project team continues to work closely with Highways England to ensure alignment of the model build and continual peer review.
- **Strategic Transport plan 2025-2050**
 - Progress to date:
 - The project is on track for completion in December.
 - Workshops were held with the Corridor groups and the Transport & Business forum in early July to discuss the assumptions and scenarios which will be used in our Phase 2 Technical Assessment of the strategy.
 - The project team continue to work with Highways England to ensure alignment of the M4 Dorset to South Coast study with our regional corridor-based schemes.
 - Next Steps:
 - 6 weeks targeted stakeholder and public engagement to be approved by the Board in September.
 - Procure the Phase 2 Technical Assessment work, which is programmed to start in December.
- **Carbon Audit Project**
 - Progress to date:
 - The project is now on track to complete its final deliverable in December. This is due to delays to commencing the project, which was pending the publication of the DfT Decarbonisation strategy. However following guidance from the Senior Officers Group and DfT Policy lead the project is underway. The scope was also expanded to include more detailed level of information. This was to ensure that the tool would be useable at a local authority level as well as at a strategic level. Phase 2 development of future

scenario modelling capability is underway. A show and tell session on the tool is due to be held with officers in July.

- Next Steps:
 - Decision on where to store the tool and how to move it into operational use for officers. Work with the Combined Authority on their Transport Decarbonisation project.
- **Freight**
 - Progress to date:
 - Discussion held with the Department for Transport Freight Policy Lead and member officers to draft brief.
 - Following approval by Senior Officers, the programme team are proposing working jointly the Peninsula STB to produce a South West Freight Strategy. This has been agreed by the WGSTB and Peninsula Senior Officers Groups and ratified at the Peninsula STB Board. This is subject to ratification at the WGSTB Board and the Department for Transport.
 - The strategy will provide also include a dedicated chapter looking at the issues and options for each individual STB area, as well as providing a holistic view for the South West Region.
 - Data has been requested from technical officers.
 - Next Steps:
 - Contract amendment with the Peninsula.
 - Continue to work closely with the Department for Transport Policy Lead for Freight and ensure data is shared both ways.
 - Hold workshop with Freight operators and local authority technical officers in late July.

1.6 Schemes pending commissioning:

- **Strategic Rail Programme:**
 - Progress to date:
 - Stations Accessibility work has been paused, following the publication of the Williams Shapps paper.
 - The Department has appointed Atkins to carry out an Accessibility to Stations programme. The WGSTB Technical Lead is in discussions with the Department and Atkins to understand how and who should progress with the STB's existing programmed works.
 - Discussions are also underway with the Department for Transport to understand what their scope is for Integrated Smart Ticketing.
 - Next Steps:
 - Subject to Board Paper approval in July.
- **Alternative Fuels**
 - Progress to date:
 - A workshop was held in April with Western Gateway STB officers to understand what work is currently underway at a local authority level. Subsequent discussions have also been held with the Department for Transport Policy leads for Alternative Fuels and Electric Vehicles to understand what work is progressing on a national policy and to ensure that any work the STB progresses with is value for money and not duplicative or abortive.
 - Following these discussions, the programme team have recommended that the majority of work, with the exception of

Freight elements; is paused on the project, pending the publication of the Department for Transport Decarbonisation Plan (expected Summer) and the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy (expected date to be confirmed). The STB continues to work with its Technical officers to co-ordination and facilitate sharing good practices.

- The STB is working with Midlands Connect and their consultants to produce an analysis of existing freight routes and travel patterns and future demand. This will provide the STB and its members with a list of potential sites for hydrogen refuelling and electric vehicle charging points. This work is pending agreement at National STB level; however, it is expected to cost in the region of £30k. This work is also required for our Freight Strategy.
- Midlands Connect are working with their Local Authorities members and businesses on how this study could be implemented. The project implementation involves working with their Local Authority Members to help shortlist sites and to agree potential trials and pilot locations with freight operators.
- Next Steps:
 - Next steps conclude negotiations at National STB level and proceed with the Midlands Connect Alternative Fuels study.
- **Strategic Cycle Routes**
 - Progress to date:
 - Scoping meeting was held with Sustrans and cycling officer representatives. A project brief has been drafted and circulated to member officers and to the Department for Transport for approval.
 - Next Steps:
 - Direct Award to Sustrans via Atkins using the Combined Authority Framework.
 - Gather intel on what existing work is happening on Walking & Cycling, Active Travel and E-bikes, E-scooters with our members.
- **Strategic Bus & Coach Strategy**
 - Progress to date:
 - Discussions were held with member technical officers on the scope of the STBs Bus and Coach Strategy.
 - However, following the publication of the National Bus and Coach Strategy officers recommended that any work the STB would conduct would be duplicative. Therefore, officers have recommended removing Bus elements from this project.
 - Officers have also recommended that as the National Bus Strategy does not look at Coach providers in detail, officers are recommending that the STB continues to scope out work on Coach.
 - Next Steps:
 - Hold workshop with Coach operators in October to assess what benefits the STB could bring to support their recovery.
 - This phasing is recommended to allow for officers to progress with other projects on the STB's work programme.
- **Rural Mobility**
 - Progress to date:
 - Discussions held with the Department for Transport's Rural Mobility Policy Lead to understand the current progress of the National Rural Mobility strategy.
 - Next steps:
 - Review feedback from member technical officers.

- Seek approval for our Senior Officer Group to proceed on the project brief and joint working with Peninsula and the Department's Policy Lead.
- Issue mini competition

Recommendations:

The members of the Board are recommended to:

- I. Note the update on delivery progress and overall programme
- II. Agree to revise the scope of the Bus and Coach Project to focus on Coach elements only, following issue of the National Bus Strategy
- III. Agree to rephrase the delivery of the Alternative Fuels project, subject to issue of the Department for Transport's Decarbonisation Plan and Electric Charging Vehicle Strategy
- IV. Agree to revise the Rail programme scope following issue of the Grant Shapps Rail Strategy
- V. Agree to revise the parking targets in the Rail Strategy
- VI. Ratify the request to work jointly with the Peninsula STB to produce a joint Freight Strategy
- VII. Agree to delegate any amendments to scope to the Senior Officers Group based on the outcomes of discussions with National STB group and following the publication of the Department for Transport's Decarbonisation, Electric Vehicles, Rural Mobility Strategies

2021/22 Financial Year

- I.7 Spend forecasts for projects are based on estimates and are subject to change depending on the scope agreed with the DfT, Senior Officers Group and Board; also, subsequent negotiations with supply chain.

Table A – YTD 2021/22 position

INCOME	Budget	Received	Requested	Remaining Forecast	Total Outturn	Variance Budget - Outturn
DfT Grant Carry over 20-21	£425,000	£425,000			£425,000	£0
DfT Grant 21-22	£425,000		£262,500	£162,500	£425,000	£0
Sub-Total	£850,000	£425,000	£262,500	£162,500	£850,000	£0
Local Authority carry over 20-21	£38,670	£38,670		£0	£38,670	£0
Local Authority income	£180,000	£120,000		£60,000	£180,000	£0
Sub-Total	£218,670	£158,670		£60,000	£218,670	£0
Total	£1,068,670	£583,670		£222,500	£1,068,670	£0

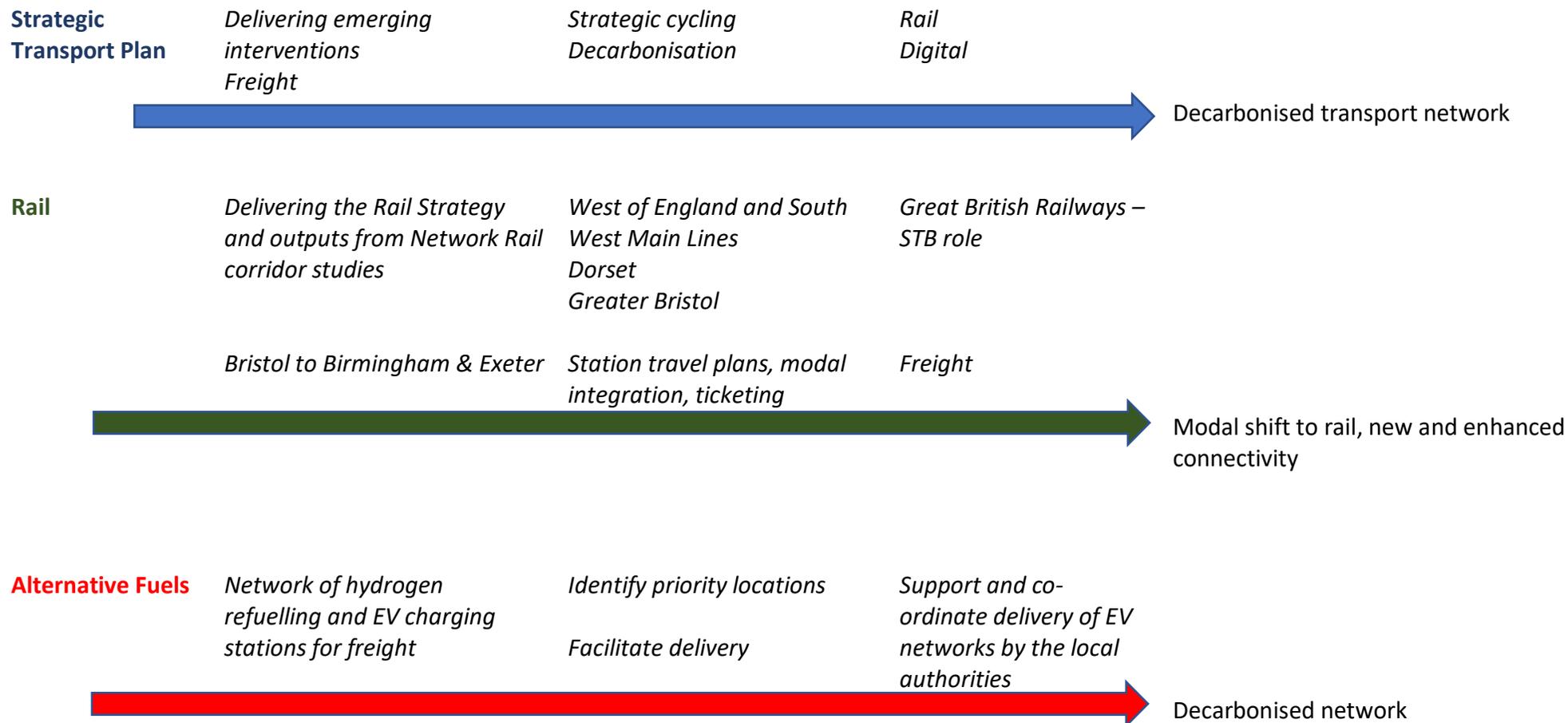
EXPENDITURE	Budget	Committed Spend	Spend to Date	Remaining Forecast	Total Outturn	Variance Budget - Outturn
DfT Funded Projects Total	£850,000	£328,169	£87,193	£745,976	£833,169	£-16,831
20-21 Budgeted Projects						
Carbon Audit	£20,000	£20,000	£20,000	£0	£20,000	£0
STP Phase 1	£120,000	£94,594	£14,877	£79,717	£94,594	£-25,406
Strategic Model	£145,000	£141,075	£52,316	£88,759	£141,075	£-3,925
Freight	£60,000	£72,500	£0	£72,500	£72,500	£12,500
Alternative Fuels	£80,000			£80,000	£80,000	£0
21-22 Budgeted Projects						
Rail Strategy	£65,000			£65,000	£65,000	£0
STP Phase 2 - Technical Assessment	£140,000			£140,000	£140,000	£0
Strategic Cycle	£60,000			£60,000	£60,000	£0
Bus and Coach	£60,000			£60,000	£60,000	£0
Rural Mobility	£100,000			£100,000	£100,000	£0
WGSTB Funded Projects Total	£53,922	£53,922		£43,138	£53,922	£0
Carbon Audit	£53,922	£53,922	£10,784	£43,138	£53,922	£0
STB General Costs	£158,000	£156,760	£39,637	£118,363	£158,000	£0
Programme Team costs	£130,000	£130,000	£36,037	£93,963	£130,000	£0
Communication Support	£25,000	£25,000	£1,840	£23,160	£25,000	£0
Misc.	£3,000	£1,760	£1,760	£1,240	£3,000	£0
Total Expenditure	£1,061,922	£538,851	£126,831	£907,477	£1,045,091	£-16,831
WGSTB Exp	£211,922	£210,682	£39,637	£161,500	£211,922	£0
DfT Exp	£850,000	£328,169	£87,193	£745,976	£833,169	£-16,831

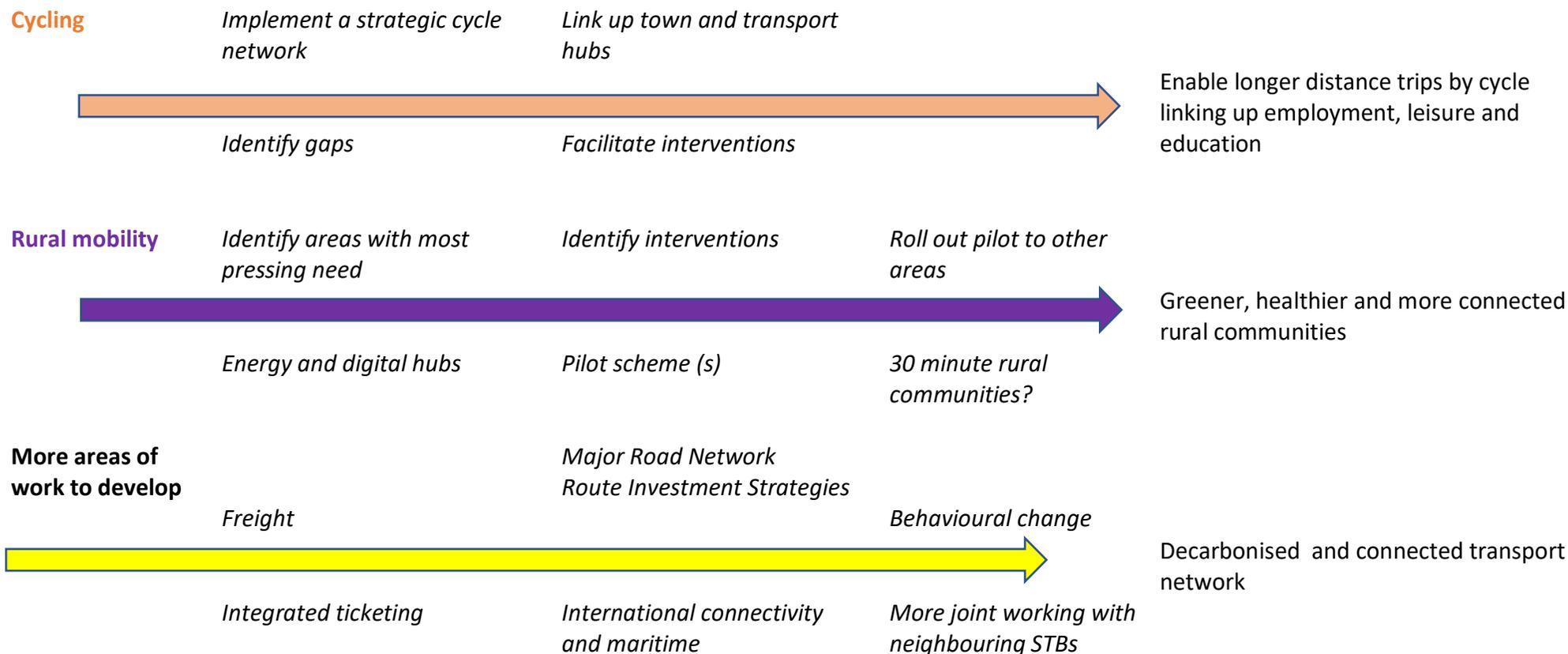
- I.8 Spend forecasts for projects are based on estimates and are subject to change depending on the scope agreed with the DfT, Senior Officers Group and Board; also, subsequent negotiations with supply chain.
- I.9 Risk provision is being held pending procurement of services for projects.

The members of the Board are recommended to:

VIII. Note the financial update

I.10 Forward work programme concepts for 22/23 onwards. The programme team is seeking views from the Board on the future work programme to include in our updated Business Plan and funding bid to the Department for Transport. This will be presented to the Board in September for approvals. 22/23 work programme Business Plan currently contains the Phase 3 of the Strategic Transport Plan.





Recommendations:

The members of the Board are recommended to:

- IX. Provide views and input into shaping the forward work programme for the next 3 years.

Consultation, communication and engagement

- 2.1 This update has been discussed by the Programme Management Team and approved by Senior Officer Group.

Equalities Implications

- 3.1 No adverse impact on any protected groups.

Legal considerations

- 4.1 The Western Gateway STB remains an informal non-statutory partnership.

Financial considerations

- 5.1 The budget considerations are set out in this report.

Conclusion

- 6.1 The Board is recommended to note both the emerging work programme and YTD budget allocation for 2021/22.

Contact Officer

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