

Western Gateway Sub-national Transport Body

Board Meeting

Paper A

Date **29th November 2022**

Title of report: **2022/23 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. To note the contents of the programme, update report.
- II. On the alternative fuels strategy: approval of the strategy; approve the next steps to undertake the shortlisting of locations; delegation to officers to take forward the shortlisting.
- III. Approval of the strategic cycling strategy.
- IV. Approve, for the STP, the structure for the issues and options paper, strategic plan, engagement strategy.

Introduction

1.1 This report contains an update on project progress and update on STB finances.

Work Programme

1.2 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
	Strategic Transport Plan (2020-2025)	Completed
	Strategic Modelling Review Study	Completed

Delivered by	Project	Status
2021/22	Strategic Model	Completed
	Freight Strategy	Completed
	Rural Mobility Strategy	Completed
2022/23	Strategic Transport Plan Phase 1 Baseline Report	Amber – revised version being produced. Final version expected December 22
	Strategic Rail Phase 1	Completed
	Carbon Audit	Amber – awaiting final report, due December 22
	Coach Strategy	Amber – change request has been accepted. Final report expected January 23
	Strategic Cycle Routes	Amber, due to complete in November, delay due to supplier capacity issues (+2mth slippage). Final draft due December 22
	Strategic Transport Plan Phase 2 Technical Assessment	Amber, due to supplier capacity issues due to complete December 22.
	Alternative Fuels for Freight Phase 1	Green, final report expected November 22
	Alternative Fuels for Freight Phase 2	Green, expected to start early 2023. Led by Midlands Connect STB
	Strategic Transport Plan Phase 3 Strategic Report	Amber – project progressing to revised agreed timescale.
	Strategic Rail Phase 2	Green, in contract negotiations
	Rural Making the case for investment	Green, on track
	Rural Phase 2	Amber, risk of delay in taking forward pilot projects.
	Freight Phase 2	Green, sub-groups established
	Electric Vehicles	Green, evidence gathering.

1.3 Schemes - progress update:

Ref	Project	RAG	Reason for RAG if not Green	Progress to date	Next Period
1.5	STP Phase 1 Baseline report	A	Project has faced significant delay due largely to quality issues, resource capacity. Now due to complete December 2022. (Baseline Dec 21)	The draft Baseline Report and the four draft Strategic Corridor Studies are to be updated following comments from technical officers and key stakeholders.	The Baseline Report and four Strategic Corridor Studies will be finalised and used to input into the Issues and Options paper for early engagement on the Strategic Transport Plan.
1.6	STP Phase 2 Technical Assessment	A	Due for completion by December 2022.	Western Gateway Strategic Transport Model is being updated following DfT concerns about using the most up to date data and will be used to test the Business as Usual and Do Something scenarios.	The results from the technical assessments will be used to input into the Issues and Options paper for early engagement on the Strategic Transport Plan.
1.7	STP Phase 3 Strategy	A	Revised programme for producing, engaging on and adopting the long term Strategic Plan was agreed at the Board on 28 September 2022. Adoption by October 2023.	In house resource secured to support draft Issues and Options paper for early engagement on the Strategic Transport Plan. Engagement Strategy setting out how the STB will consult on the Paper under preparation. Proposed structure for draft Strategic Transport Plan going to the Board on 7 December 2022.	Issues and Options paper finalised for engagement in early 2023. Strategic Transport Plan drafting to start for approval by the Board in June 2023 for public consultation. Response/position statement for National Highways RIS3 consultation to be produced.
2.2	Carbon Audit	A	Amber, project continues to be delayed by capacity issues. Completion date is now pushed from a baseline of September to November.	The initial draft Baseline carbon spreadsheet tool has been completed and together with an associated user guide and methodology report, has been placed on the WGSTB in a 'beta' version for use and feedback by constituent authorities. Subsequently, WECA (as part of a wider transport decarbonisation study) agreed to further develop the tool through the incorporation of 'levers' to see the effect of different interventions / measures on transport carbon emissions. Following an award of funding from the DfT, the WGSTB has worked with the Midlands Connect STB to enhance the tool. Additional work has been agreed to align this tool with the Strategic Transport Phase 2 technical assessment work. Funding for this work is included in the Phase 2 work. The draft Do Minimum Business as Usual and Central Case carbon tools have been produced along with a revised user guide and methodology report	Completion of draft Preferred Scenario Do Something Business as Usual and Preferred Scenario Central Case by early January with further revised user guide and methodology report. Completion of final tool and user guide and methodology report by end of January. Host the final carbon tool on the WGSTB website for use by constituent authorities (and their consultants). Arrange peer review of outputs with technical officers and DfT Sponsor in January. Complete project in January.
3.0	Freight Strategy	C	Project completed	Report approved at Board	

Ref	Project	RAG	Reason for RAG if not Green	Progress to date	Next Period
3.1	Freight Strategy Implementation and Freight Forums	G	Green, phase 2 scoping work has commenced. Resourced currently via supplier and BCP.	Freight forum has held in July with positive feedback from all stakeholders. The ToR were signed off at the meeting and individual mode based working groups have been established. The first sub-groups (Aviation & Maritime, Rail, Roads) have been held in September to commence drafting project proposals. The second sub-group and forum held in November. Good attendance and participation. Monitoring.	Monitoring report proposed for spring.
4.2	Strategic Rail Phase 1	C	Phase 1 works completed and approved		
4.3	Strategic Rail Phase 2	G	Green, scoping next phases of work for Dorset Heart of Wessex Line study and Cheltenham Spa projects.	Network Rail have produced a revised remit for undertaking the study. Draft Basic Service Agreement expected end of November 2022. GWR undertaking a timetable capacity analysis for the Heart of Wessex Line to support the study.	Agree Basic Services Agreement with Network Rail to undertake the Study following approval from Project Sponsor and DfT Sponsor for the scope of the works.
5.0	Rural Strategy	C	Works completed and approved		
5.1	Rural (making the case for investment)	G	Green, to complete November 2022, with agreement from the Transport for the North, England's Economic Heartland, Midlands Connect, Transport for South-East, Transport East and Peninsula STBs in December 2022.	Two workshops held with key stakeholders – including local authorities, national rural interest groups and transport organisations. Excellent feedback received. Final draft 'Making the Case for rural investment' document shared with STBs and the Transport Officer Group for feedback. Final version being produced.	Final version of the 'Making the Case for Rural Investment' document promoted and made available for use by the STBs and local authorities.
5.2	Rural Phase 2	A	Resource issues has meant progress on developing rural pilot projects as recommended by the South West Rural Mobility Strategy has been slower than expected.	Potential pilot scheme bids have been explored with constituent authorities but at a very early stage. Possible joint working with the Peninsula STB on pilots is being explored.	Appointment of the new Senior Technical and Lead Officer posts will provide resources to take forward the development of rural mobility pilot schemes.
6.0	Coach Strategy	A	Amber, change request has been submitted to increase budget of project by approximately £40k– project due to complete December Board	Stakeholder workshops have been completed. A mode comparison of transport services between major settlements in the Western Gateway is complete. Permission has been granted from National Highways to use their Southwest Regional Traffic Model. Discussion has been held with Bus Users UK charity	Agree change request with Project Sponsor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A gap analysis has been completed and quality check of data and has determined that there is insufficient data to inform the development of the strategy. A methodology has been developed to obtain and analyse additional data which will reinforce the process of developing and prioritising options for improving coach services. Arrange meeting with the Confederation of Passenger Transport UK.
7.0	Strategic Cycle Routes	A	Amber – was due to complete in September, this has slipped by one month due to capacity issues.	Draft report has been received, in peer review. Peer review produced over 200+ responses, which have all needed consideration. This has slowed progress.	Share draft report with stakeholders and DfT Sponsor for review. Seek approvals at the December Board.

Ref	Project	RAG	Reason for RAG if not Green	Progress to date	Next Period
				On a technical note; some commentators wanted more pictures, but WG do not have a repository of photos of specific places across the region, so LA's need to supply these, with permissions. They have not been forthcoming with these.	
8.0	Alternative Fuels for Freight Phase 1	G	Green – final report to be approved by the Board on 7 December 2022.	Draft report shared with the Board and the Transport Officers and Senior Officers Group for feedback. Report shared at the Freight Forum on 2 November 2022 and was well received. Final report due 25 November 2022.	See Phase 2.
8.1	Alternative Fuels for Freight Phase 2	G	Midlands Connect are lined up to undertake the Phase 2 shortlisting of potential hydrogen refuelling and EV charging stations on behalf of the STBs.	Midlands Connect have received capacity and capability funding from the DfT to undertake Phase 2. Atkins and Cennex have been appointed.	Work to start on Phase 2 in January 2023 and report by the end of March 2023.
9.0	Electric Vehicles	G	Green, project in inception stage	Work has now commenced on a first phase of evidence gathering and baselining led by Dorset Council with support from WECA to review existing LA strategies.	DC to liaise with the Peninsula Gateway to seek opportunities for joint working. DC developing consultancy brief to undertake regional demand assessment

2022/23 Financial Year

1.6 To note funds were drawn down on a project-by-project basis. The underspend in the Department for Transport funding has not been drawn down and the allocation has been therefore released. Project costs are rolled forward into 22/23.

Table A 2022/23

INCOME	Budget	Committed	Received	Forecast 22/23	Total Outturn	Variance Budget - Outturn
DfT Grant 20/21	£425,000	£425,000	£425,000	£0	£425,000	£0
DfT Grant 21/22	£346,980	£346,980	£346,980	£0	£346,980	£0
DfT Grant 22/23	£605,000	£302,500*		£605,000	£605,000	£0
Sub-Total	£1,376,980	£1,074,480	£771,980	£605,000	£1,376,980	£0
Local Authority carry over 21/22	£22,574	£22,574	£22,574	£0	£22,574	£0
Local Authority income 22/23	£180,000	£180,000	£100,000	£80,000	£180,000	£0
Sub-Total	£202,574	£202,574	£122,574	£80,000	£202,574	£0
Total	£1,579,554	£1,277,054	£894,554	£685,000	£1,579,554	£0

*DfT confirmed holding back £302,500 subject to performance and delivery confidence

EXPENDITURE	Budget	Committed Spend	Spend Life to Aug 22	Remaining Forecast 22/23	Total Outturn	Variance Budget - Outturn
DfT Funded Projects	£1,421,981	£771,980	£670,858	£790,730	£1,461,588	£39,607
Carbon Audit (20/21)	£20,000	£20,000	£20,000	£0	£20,000	£0
STP Phase 1 (20/21)	£90,001	£90,000	£73,036	£16,964	£90,000	-£1
Strategic Model (20/21)	£141,075	£141,075	£141,077	£0	£141,077	£2
Freight Strategy (20/21)	£72,500	£72,500	£72,500	£0	£72,500	£0
Alternative Fuels for Freight (20/21)	£41,356	£41,356	£38,267	£3,090	£41,356	£0
Strategic Rail Phase 1 (21/22)	£65,000	£65,000	£65,000	£0	£65,000	£0
STP Phase 2 - Technical Assessment (21/22)	£125,449	£125,449	£98,342	£27,107	£125,449	£0
Strategic Cycling (21/22)	£55,000	£55,000	£37,384	£17,616	£55,000	£0
Coach Strategy (21/22)	£71,600	£71,600	£16,755	£94,445	£111,200	£39,600
Rural Mobility Strategy (21/22)	£90,000	£90,000	£90,006	£0	£90,006	£6
STP Phase 3 - Strategy (22/23)	£80,000		£0	£80,000	£80,000	£0
Rural Mobility Phase 2 (22/23)	£150,000		£0	£150,000	£150,000	£0
Strategic Rail Phase 2 (22/23)	£150,000		£11,850	£138,150	£150,000	£0
Freight Phase 2 (22/23)	£150,000		£6,642	£143,358	£150,000	£0
Alternative Fuels for Freight Phase 2 (22/23)	£60,000			£60,000	£60,000	£0
EV Charging (22/23)	£60,000			£60,000	£60,000	£0
STB General Costs	£96,000	£96,035	£60,263	£35,737	£96,000	£0
Programme Management Team costs	£68,000	£68,000	£44,029	£23,936	£67,965	-£35
Communication Support	£25,000	£25,000	£13,199	£11,801	£25,000	£0
Misc. - Expenses/Licences/IT/Legal	£3,000	£3,035	£3,035		£3,035	£35
Risk Contingency	£61,573	£0	£0	£21,966	£21,966	-£39,607
Unallocated	£61,573	£0		£21,966	£21,966	-£39,607
Total Expenditure	£1,579,554	£868,015	£731,121	£848,433	£1,579,554	£0

*Subject to change request approval

**Contribution to National STB conference

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 the current 22/23 position and project progress.

Contact Officer

Guido Meloni, Programme Manager (Western Gateway Sub-National Transport Body)

Guido Meloni guido.meloni@Westofengland-CA.gov.uk