

Western Gateway Sub-national Transport Body

Board Meeting

Paper A

Date **21st February 2023**

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 STP: approve the Issues and Options; delegate to Programme Officers Group to finalise the issues and options paper and approve engagement report; approve list of key stakeholders.
- III. Business Plan: approve the draft business plan; delegate to Programme Officers Group the completion of the final version of the business plan.

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 February 23.
	Strategic Rail Phase 1	Completed
	Carbon Audit	Completed
	Coach Strategy	Amber – change request has been accepted. Final report expected March 23
	Strategic Cycle Routes	Amber. First final report complete, additional work expected March 23.
	Strategic Transport Plan Phase 2 Technical Assessment	Amber, due to supplier capacity issues due to complete February 23.
	Alternative Fuels for Freight Phase 1	Green, additional work expected March 23.
	Alternative Fuels for Freight Phase 2	Green, expected to start March 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, signed one of the contracts, the other one is imminent.
	Rural Making the case for investment	Green, final version received, minor changes to make.
	Rural Phase 2	Amber, will begin in financial year 23-24.
	Freight Phase 2	Green, ongoing work by sub-groups
	Electric Vehicles	Green, joint regional demand assessment with Peninsula to begin shortly.

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 February 2023. (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 February 2023.	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 completed. Proposed structure for draft Strategic Transport Plan agreed at 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	C	Project Complete	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Following an award of funding from the DfT, the WGSTB has worked with the Midlands Connect STB to enhance the tool.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Do Minimum Business as Usual and Central Case carbon tools have been produced along with a revised user guide and methodology report</p>	
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 work by sub-groups ongoing. 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. The third round of meeting takes place mid-February.	Monitoring report proposed for spring. Additionally, two projects will be reporting end of March: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential locations for inter-modal rail freight terminals. - Pilot backloading schemes for operators in the SW.
4.2	Strategic Rail Phase 1	C	Phase 1 works completed and approved		
4.3	Strategic Rail Phase 2	G	Green, agreed scope for Dorset Heart of Wessex Line study and Cheltenham Spa projects.	Basic Service Agreement signed for the Heart of Wessex Line study, and about to be signed for Cheltenham Spa.	Heart of Wessex work has begun, due to report September 23. Cheltenham Spa in the process of starting, will report in June 23.
5.0	Rural Strategy	C	Works completed and approved		
5.1	Rural (making the case for investment)	G	Green, final version received; minor changes needed.	Final draft version has been submitted.	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	Will begin in financial year 23-24	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. Next step is to request expressions of interest by SOG members to take part in pilot projects.
6.0	Coach Strategy	A	Amber, change request was accepted, final report expected March 23.	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. A change request was agreed due as: <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. 	Complete final report.

Ref	Project	RAG	Reason for RAG if not Green	Progress to date	Next Period
7.0	Strategic Cycle Routes	A	Amber – draft final report complete. Comments received from the board. Additional work taking place to address comments.	Scope for additional work has been discussed and presented at SOG, including a wide range of themes that the routes can be scored against.	Share proposed approach for additional work with the board project sponsor. Carry out the additional work.
8.0	Alternative Fuels for Freight Phase 1	G	Green – final report approved subject to additional work being undertaken.	Scope for additional work agreed. Consultants have started work on reviewing the network of hydrogen and EV charging stations, and other issues raised by the board.	Additional work should be completed by the end of March.
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 March 2023 and report by the end of May 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. Joint work with Peninsula agreed on the regional demand assessment.	Work to report by the end of March.

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		£300,000	£300,000	£-305,000
Sub-Total	£1,376,980	£1,074,480	£771,980	£300,000	£1,071,980	£-305,000
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	£380,000	£1,274,554	£-305,000

EXPENDITURE	Budget	Committed Spend	Spend Life to Jan 23	Remaining Forecast 22/23	Total Outturn	Variance Budget - Outturn
DfT Funded Projects	£1,421,980	£1,156,580	£781,689	£374,891	£1,156,580	£-265,400
Carbon Audit (20/21)	£20,000	£20,000	£20,000	£0	£20,000	£0
STP Phase 1 (20/21)	£90,000	£90,000	£90,000	£0	£90,000	£0
Strategic Model (20/21)	£141,075	£141,075	£141,075	£0	£141,075	£0
Freight (20/21)	£72,500	£72,500	£72,500	£0	£72,500	£0
Alternative Fuels (20/21)	£41,356	£56,356	£38,266	£18,090	£56,356	£15,000
Rail Strategy (21/22)	£65,000	£65,000	£65,000	£0	£65,000	£0
STP Phase 2 - Technical Assessment (21/22)	£125,449	£125,449	£102,228	£23,221	£125,449	£0
Strategic Cycle project (21/22)	£55,000	£85,000	£42,601	£42,399	£85,000	£30,000
Coach project (21/22)	£71,600	£111,200	£86,991	£24,209	£111,200	£39,600
Rural Mobility (21/22)	£90,000	£90,000	£90,000	£0	£90,000	£0
STP Phase 3 - Strategy (22/23)	£80,000	£80,000	£23,222	£56,778	£80,000	£0
Rural Mobility (22/23)	£150,000	£0	£0	£0	£0	£-150,000
Rail Strategy (22/23)	£150,000	£110,000	£0	£110,000	£110,000	£-40,000
Freight (22/23)	£150,000	£50,000	£9,806	£40,194	£50,000	£-100,000
Alternative Fuels (22/23)	£60,000	£0	£0	£0	£0	£-60,000
EV Charging (22/23)	£60,000	£60,000	£0	£60,000	£60,000	£0
STB General Costs	£96,000	£96,035	£82,532	£13,468	£96,000	£0
Programme Management Team costs	£68,000	£68,000	£56,368	£11,632	£68,000	£0
Communication Support	£25,000	£25,000	£23,164	£1,836	£25,000	£0
Misc. - Expenses/Licences/IT/Legal	£3,000	£3,035	£3,000		£3,000	£0
Total	£1,517,980	£1,252,615	£864,221	£388,359	£1,252,580	£-265,400
Risk Contingency	£61,573					
Unallocated*	£61,573					£61,573
Total Expenditure	£1,579,553	£1,252,615	£864,221	£388,359	£1,252,580	£-326,973

* The additional spend for the coach strategy was originally assigned from the contingency pot. However, due to the underspend in other projects, there is no overall overspend and therefore the contingency remains unallocated.

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