

Western Gateway Sub-National Transport Body

Board Meeting

Paper C

Date **13th March 2024**

Title of report: **Forward Decision Plan**

Purpose of report: **To provide an overview of upcoming Board decisions.**

Recommendations:

The members of the Board are recommended to:

- I. Note the contents of the Forward Decision Plan and advise the programme team of any issues or additional briefings required.

Introduction

1.1 This report contains an overview of the Forward Decision Plan for the Western Gateway Sub-National Transport Body (STB) for 2023/24. It reflects the revised programme for 2023/24 following the reduction in Department for Transport funding.

Due to the importance of producing the draft Strategic Transport Plan (see Agenda Item 6 Paper A) and focusing available resources on it, progress and reporting on several projects are deferred to Board meetings in June and September 2024.

Board Forward Decision Plan

Based on the work programme the projects will require approvals from the Board

Month	Project	Purpose of Request	Status
December 2024	STP	Approve Option One or Option Two for the revised and programme for the draft Strategic Transport	Submitted to the Board for approval
	Freight	Approval of Year 2 priorities	Deferred to March 2024 Board
	EV Charging	Approval of EV Charging study report and next steps	Submitted to the Board for approval
	Rural Mobility	Update on rural mobility pilot scheme work	Deferred to March 2024 Board
	Rail	Update on Heart of Wessex Line hourly services Approval for next steps for Cheltenham Spa bay platform Proposal for work on increasing services on the West of England Line	Deferred to March 2024 Board
	Alternative fuels for freight	Report on phase 2 (shortlisting of sites) of Alternative Fuels for Freight work and next steps	Deferred to June 2024 Board
	Cycle Strategy	Cycle Strategy to be approved	Deferred to June 2024 Board
	Regional Centre of Excellence	Report to Board on existing and planned activities	Deferred to March 2024 Board
	AOB	Approval of collaboration with Western Gateway Partnership	Deferred to March 2024 Board
March 2024	Funding	Approval of Business Plan and programme for 2024/25	Submitted to the Board for approval
	STP	Request to approve the Strategic Transport Plan (2024-2050) - The Board is asked to approve the STP for publication (web and print), or, where minor amendments are required, to delegate responsibility for the final drafting	Submitted to the Board for approval

		<p>and approval of the Plan to the Project Board, under the guidance of Cllr Thomas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Board is asked to agree for officers to commence work on the SIP, for completion by the end of 2024/25, subject to final approval by the Board. A programme plan will be developed and shared with the Board at the meeting in June. - Subject to agreement with by the Project Board members, it is also recommended that the STP Project Board continue to oversee the production of the SIP. 	
Rail	<p>Final report on Heart of Wessex Line hourly services and next steps to be approved Proposal for work on increasing services on the West of England Line Proposal for joint work with England's Economic Heartland STB on Bristol to Oxford services Proposal to support Network Rail work on electrification of the Filton Bank</p>	Report deferred to June 2024 Board	
Rural Mobility	Update on rural mobility pilot schemes work	Deferred to June 2024 Board	
Coach	Update report on interventions programme for 2023/24	Deferred to June 2024 Board	
Freight	Report on year 2 activities	Deferred to June 2024 Board	
Regional Centre of Excellence	Report to Board on existing and planned activities	Deferred to June 2024 Board	
AOB	Approval of collaboration with Western Gateway Partnership	Deferred to June 2024 Board	

June 2024	Funding	Confirmation of DfT funding for 2024/25	
	Strategic Transport Plan	Approve consultation draft of the Strategic Transport Plan as Option One chosen	
	Freight	Progress report for 2023/24	
	Cycle Strategy	Cycle Strategy to be approved	
	Alternative fuels for freight	Report on phase 2 (shortlisting of sites) of Alternative Fuels for Freight work and next steps	
	Rail	Approval for next steps for Cheltenham Spa	
	AOB		
September 2024	STP	Update on the Strategic Transport Plan	
	AOB		
December 2024	STP	Approval of Strategic Transport Plan if Option One taken	
	AOB		

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 Paper D.

Conclusion

- 6.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the Forward Decision Plan and advise the programme team of any issues or additional briefings required.

Contact Officer

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The Western Gateway is formed by an alliance of the following Local Authorities:

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