

Western Gateway Sub-national Transport Body

Board Meeting

Paper D

Date **27th September 2023**

Title of report: **2023/24 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.

Introduction

- 1.1 This report contains an update on project progress by the Western Gateway Sub-national Transport Body's (STB) and its finances.

Work Programme

- 1.2 To date the STB Programme Management 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
2021/22	Strategic Model	Completed
	Freight Strategy	Completed
	Rural Mobility Strategy	Completed

Delivered by	Project	Status
2022/23 to 2023/24	Strategic Transport Plan Phase 1 Baseline Report	Amber – revised version being produced. Final version expected September 2023.
	Strategic Rail Phase 1	Completed
	Carbon Audit	Completed
	Coach Strategy	Completed June 2023.
	Strategic Cycle Routes	Amber. First final report complete, additional work being undertaken. Update to September 2023 Board
	Strategic Transport Plan Phase 2 Technical Assessment	Completed March 2023.
	Alternative Fuels for Freight Phase 1	Green, additional work expected June 23.
	Alternative Fuels for Freight Phase 2	Green, shortlisting tool expected late 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. Work on Cheltenham Spa and Heart of Wessex line is underway.
	Rural Making the case for investment	Completed. Final version published June 2023.
	Rural Phase 2	Green, ongoing work with Peninsula Transport STB for Rural Mobility pilots
	Freight Phase 2	Green, ongoing work by sub-groups
	Electric Vehicles	Green, joint regional demand assessment with Peninsula Transport STB has started.

1.3 Schemes - progress update:

Ref	Project	RAG	Reason for RAG if not Green	Progress to date	Next Period
1.6	STP Phase 2 Technical Assessment	A	Completion now expected July 23	Final version of the four strategic corridor reports have been received. Discussion with Dorset Council over providing Strategic Transport Model support	Baseline report and four strategic corridor reports to be published on the Western Gateway website Testing of four scenarios drawn from DfT Common Analytical Scenario guidance to support the Strategic Transport Plan.
1.7	STP Phase 3 Strategy	A	Revised programme for producing, engaging on and adopting the long term Strategic Plan is going to the Board on 28 June 2023. Revised adoption February 2023.	Issues & Opportunities engagement responses summarised and published on website. Insights and priorities gained from the engagement being used to inform the drafting of the Strategic Transport Plan. Direction Statement to September 2023 Board.	Draft Strategic Transport Plan to be produced for full public consultation in late 2023/early 2024. Draft Plan to December 2023 Board
3.1	Freight Strategy Implementation and Freight Forums	G	Green, phase 2 work by sub-groups ongoing. Resourced currently via supplier and BCP.	Work and meetings with the sub-groups (Aviation & Maritime, Rail, Roads) and the main Forum are ongoing. Good attendance to the meetings. 1st year monitoring report published on website. Programme for 2023/24 being agreed with the Peninsula Transport.	5 th round of sub-groups and main Forum taking place October and November 2023 Ongoing work on the South West Freight Strategy's interventions. Agree on year 2 priorities with Peninsula Transport STB
4.3	Strategic Rail Phase 2	G	Green	Heart of Wessex and Cheltenham Spa work are ongoing. - Cheltenham Spa Capacity Analysis completed - Cheltenham Spa performance modelling report being undertaken - GWR completed timetable capacity for Heart of Wessex Line hourly services - Technical assessments for the Heart of Wessex Line being undertaken	Heart of Wessex work due to report January 2024 Cheltenham Spa to be reported to the Board December 2023 Proposal for work on increasing services on the West of England Line to go to the Board in December 2023
5.2	Rural Phase 2	A	Amber	Positive responses from the constituent authorities on interest in hosting pilots. Finalise project brief and joint commission with Peninsula to facilitate rural mobility work.	Next stage of work to be commissioned with Peninsula Transport
6	Coach Strategy	G	Green	Draft report was completed. Report approved at Board on 28/06/2023 Proposal received from consultants for programme interventions work in 2023/24	Interventions for 2023/23 to be commissioned including setting up of the South West Coach Sector Forum

Ref	Project	RAG	Reason for RAG if not Green	Progress to date	Next Period
7	Strategic Cycle Routes	A	Amber - draft final report complete. Comments received from the board. Additional work taking place to address comments.	Proposal for additional work was shared with the board. Ongoing work with consultants to complete the additional work. Further work on the draft strategy around the prioritisation of cycle routes is required and agreement on the extension work.	Work still ongoing with final report for Board in December 2023
8	Alternative Fuels for Freight Phase 1	G	Green - final report approved subject to additional work being undertaken.	Revised report approved by Board on 28/6/2023	
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.	Full shortlisting tool expected end 2023
9	Electric Vehicles	G	Green	Western Gateway jointly commissioned consultants WSP, through Peninsula Transport, to undertake a regional electric vehicle (EV) charging study for the South West. Draft findings to be reported to Board September 2023 and agree the role of the STB	Study data to be provided in a GIS format to be disseminated to local authorities Undertake a survey of Local Authorities across the region to ascertain their progress, ambitions, and what support they would need from the STB. Set up an officer working group. Create a SW electric vehicle charging infrastructure forum to engage more widely with other stakeholders
10	Carbon Tool	G	Green	Good level of engagement and feedback on the roll out of the tool. Tool has been improved following feedback. Discussions with other STBs over making the carbon tool compatible with England's Economic Heartland Decarbonisation Policy Playbook tool.	Upgrading of carbon tool to compatibility with the Decarbonisation Policy Playbook tool.

2023/24 Financial Year

- 1.4 To note the Department for Transport has frozen funding for 2023/24 at 2022/23 levels. This equates to a loss of funding of £211,000.
- 1.5 Seconded staff costs and comms support not recorded yet for 23/24 as collection takes place on a quarterly basis.

INCOME	Budget	Committed	Received	Forecast 23/24	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	£0	£300,000	-£305,000
DfT Grant 23/24	£605,000	£605,000	£0	£605,000	£605,000	£0
Sub-Total	£1,981,980	£1,679,480	£771,980	£605,000	£1,981,980	-£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	£180,000	£0	£180,000	£0
Local Authority income 23/24	£180,000	£180,000	£80,000	£180,000	£180,000	£0
Sub-Total	£382,574	£382,574	£282,574	£180,000	£382,574	£0
Total	£2,364,554	£2,364,554	£1,054,554	£785,000	£2,364,554	-£305,000

EXPENDITURE	Budget	Committed Spend	Spend	Remaining Forecast 23/24	Total Outturn	Variance Budget - Outturn
Projects FY 23/24***	£627,500	£204,000	£17,945	£405,555	£423,500	£204,000
Strategic Transport Plan*	£47,500	£0	£2,604	£44,896	£47,500	£0
Rural Mobility – pilot projects*	£117,500	£42,500	£2,107	£72,893	£75,000	£42,500
Rail Strategy – incl. Heart of Wessex Line*	£147,500	£109,000	£6,675	£31,825	£38,500	£109,000
Freight*	£72,500	£35,000	£2,999	£34,501	£37,500	£35,000
Alternative Fuels for Freight*	£17,500	£0	£2,042	£15,458	£17,500	£0
Electric Vehicle Charging and Local Transport Plan support*	£47,500	£10,000	£0	£37,500	£37,500	£10,000
Centre of Excellence**	£27,500	£0	£574	£26,926	£27,500	£0
Quantifiable Carbon Reduction and Local Transport Plan support*	£47,500	£7,500	£383	£39,617	£40,000	£7,500
Business Case and Local Transport Plan support	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Coach Strategy*	£47,500	£0	£370	£47,130	£47,500	£0
Strategic Cycling Network**	£27,500	£0	£191	£27,309	£27,500	£0
Ongoing costs	£27,500	£0	£0	£27,500	£27,500	£0
STB General Costs	£157,500	£30,000	£36,247	£121,253	£157,500	£30,000
Programme Management Team costs	£100,000	£0	£34,753	£65,247	£100,000	£0
Communication Support*	£27,500	£30,000	£0	£27,500	£27,500	£30,000
Other and contingency	£30,000	£0	£1,494	£28,506	£30,000	£0
Total	£785,000	£234,000	£54,192	£526,808	£581,000	£234,000

* Funding allocated but awaiting confirmation

** Establishing requirements ongoing

*** £2,500 from each project is top sliced to provide communication support

Consultation, communication and engagement

2.1 This update has been discussed by the Programme Management Team and approved by the 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 23/24 position and project progress.

Contact Officer

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