

MEETING OF THE BERKSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT BODY (BLTB) – THURSDAY 15 JULY 2020

CONTACT OFFICER: Josie Wragg, Chief Executive, Slough Borough Council, Lead Officer to the BLTB

ITEM 16 – Update to the BLTB re Business Rate Retention Pilot monies - Revenue Support

1. Purpose of Report

To update the BLTB on the latest Business Rate Retention Pilot (BRRP) Revenue Support monies allocated to be spent on infrastructure project development within the six Berkshire Local Authorities.

2. Summary

In [November 2018](#) you approved the revenue support proposals and the drawdown of BRRP funds by Reading, West Berkshire, Windsor and Maidenhead and Wokingham. Bracknell was added in [January 2019](#) and Slough in [March 2019](#).

	Funds spent at June 2020	Funds spent at October 2019	Funds spent at July 2019	Total Funds remaining June 2020
Reading	£48,334.45	£34,500.00	£34,500.00	£51,665.55
West Berkshire	£53,145.00	£40,000.00	£40,000.00	£46,855.00
RBWM	£35,000.00	-	-	£65,000.00
Wokingham	£77,775.00	£77,775.00	£77,775.00	£22,225.00
Bracknell	£80,000.00	£25,000.00	-	£20,000.00
Slough	£40,000.00	£20,000.00	-	£60,000.00
Total funds spent to date	£334,254.45	£197,275.00	£152,275.00	£265,745.55
%	56%	33%	25%	44%
Funds provided	£600,000.00			

3. Local Authority updates – BRRP develop schemes

Reading

- **South Reading MRT future phases** (concept designs and outline business case for future phases)
 - Concept designs complete, costings and initial business case work on-going to inform future LGF bid.
- **Reading town centre and South Reading corridor access enhancements** (concept designs)
 - Concept design work on-going, consultation currently being undertaken on draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) which has also been submitted to the DfT.
- **Grazeley business case** (including Mere oak P&R expansion)
 - Concept designs for Mere oak P&R expansion being prepared to be consistent with the overall Masterplan for Grazeley.

West Berkshire

- **Thatcham model** is complete and the forecast years of 2026 and 2036 have been developed. To bring the Newbury model in line in terms of forecast years, this work has also been commissioned in preparation for identifying infrastructure projects to support future development. The time delays have continued with the Local Plan work requiring the overall timing of the phased approach to be re-visited. The phase descriptions and timescales in the above table set out the new revised position. Just over half the funding has been spent with the remainder forecast to be spent within 2020/21 financial year.

Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead

- **Ascot High Street** - Project Centre have completed the planning policy review, traffic and parking surveys and analysis, and are feeding this information into the outline concepts for the High Street. The proposals are linked to the proposed housing developments to the north and south of the High Street. We now expect to complete the initial study by September and subject to agreement of the proposed scheme, we intend to progress with a business case to be presented to the November 2020 Local Transport Body meeting. The project had been initially delayed due to highway works to the High Street which prevented the completion of the traffic surveys during the early part of 2020. Consultation was due to be undertaken in March 2020 however, this has been delayed due to the Covid-19 situation.

Wokingham

- £77,775 has been spent on Business case reports for three main Grazeley settlement scheme proposals; the remaining £22,225 is due to be spent by December 2021 on an Options appraisal and impact study to improvements along the A329(M).

Bracknell

- Officers have been busy working on a number of projects aimed at unlocking further growth in the borough and also working with colleagues in Wokingham and cross-boundary scheme that will unlock housing allocations in WBC and assist with road capacity and sustainable transport links providing greater and safer accessibility for all between Bracknell and Wokingham.

Slough

- The majority of the expenditure to date relates to the development of a Strategic Outline Business Case for the Brunel Way / Public Realm Scheme, including an element previously covered in the preliminary studies. Nb Draft and final submission dates are current, revised best estimates.

4. Recommendation

Transport officers to supply regular updates to LEP with latest spend levels and developments on projects.