

MEETING OF THE BERKSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT BODY (BLTB) – THURSDAY 7 MARCH 2024

CONTACT OFFICER: Stephen Brown, Chief Executive, Slough Borough Council

Item 3 : Thames Valley Berkshire Capital Programme Update

Purpose of Report

1. To report on the progress of the [Thames Valley Berkshire Local Growth Dealⁱ](#), as amended by Growth Deal 2 ([£10.2 million further support to Thames Valley Berkshireⁱⁱ](#)) and Growth Deal 3 ([Factsheet GD3ⁱⁱⁱ](#)) with reference to the schemes included in the Transport Packages of the [Strategic Economic Plan^{iv}](#); and on the progress of schemes funded by the Business Rates Retention Pilots (BRRP) of 2018/19 and 2019/20. This report also reports on the transport element of the [Getting Building Fund](#) (GBF) released in September 2020.

Recommendations

2. That you note the progress made on the schemes previously given programme entry status, as set out in the accompanying summary report, and consider the request for a capital swap.

Background

3. The headline figure for transport scheme grants under the three Local Growth Deals (Local Growth Fund, LGF) is £135.98m. This includes £24m of “DfT retained” allocation relating to the Wokingham Distributor Roads.
4. A further £25m has been released through BRRP1 (2018/19) and £11m from BRRP2 (2019/20).
5. Berkshire LEP received £7.5m through the GBF, of which £2,093,000 has been allocated to two transport projects. GBF investment decisions were taken by the LEP through the Place Making Board (PMB) in consultation with senior officers from the six local authorities. The transport investments are reported to BLTB for information whilst the remaining GBF projects are reported to PMB. All LGF and GBF projects are reported to the LEP Board.
6. £1.1m of BRRP has been allocated to two digital projects, including the TVB Smart City Cluster scheme, which was previously reported to BLTB. Digital projects are now governed by the Digital Infrastructure Group and not reported here.

Delivery and financial update

7. Progress of each project is shown in Appendix A. This demonstrates that the programme is largely being delivered according to plan. Overall, there are 17 projects that remain to complete, with 12 of these due by the end of this financial year. Three projects are currently rated as Amber. Two of these projects (2.32 – Maidenhead: Housing Sites Enabling Work Ph. 1 and 2.53 – Parlaunt Road Traffic Signals and Highways Improvement) have recently expressed some risks to delivery by end of March 2024 and we are in discussion with the project leads over corrective or mitigating actions, but some

delivery is likely to slip in the 2024/25 financial year. Due to the proximity to financial year end one project, 2.55 – Newbury Wharf, sought advice on the best approach to delivering whilst maximising impact. A capital swap was provisionally agreed by the BLTB Chair on 7 February 2024 and we seek formal ratification of that decision today and this is detailed in paragraphs 9 to 12.

8. In terms of the financial position, we are nearing the end of the programmes. Of the original £172.9m awarded across LGF, GBF and BRRP only c£7.8m remains to be spent.
9. West Berkshire Council's (WBC) Newbury Wharf project has been offered a grant of £375K from the Business Rates Retention Pilot capital fund (BRRP) to repurpose parking in Newbury Wharf into a flexible public space, as originally proposed in the Newbury Masterplan.
10. The project requires planning permission, and unfortunately it will not be possible to achieve this in time to complete the project by March 2024. This is due in part to the length of time required by consultees such as the Environment Agency. A way of mitigating this risk was to undertake initial works under a Certificate of Lawfulness using the BRRP funding in the 2023/24 financial year. However, this is also now not viable due to the discovery of the need for repairs to the sheet piling under the site which needs to be undertaken prior to main works.
11. WBC have a further £420k available for the project in the 2024/25 financial year from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. A solution to the above issue has been identified where the BRRP funding is combined with the UKSPF funding under a revised delivery timeline where the project is completed by March 2025.
12. To ensure the BRRP funds are spent by March 2024, WBC is proposing to spend them as part of the wider council capital programme and carrying out a capital swap. By carrying out a capital swap, to retain the BRRP funds, WBC will ensure that the funds are reapplied to the Newbury Wharf project in the 2024/25 financial year, in which it will be completed.

Recommendation:

13. To ratify the decision by the BLTB Chair to agree to a capital swap between Newbury Wharf and the wider West Berkshire Capital Programme, so that the BRRP funding is spent in full this financial year, with West Berkshire Council committing to deliver the BRRP funded project in 2024/25.

Other Implications

Announcement of LEP future

14. Berkshire Leaders' Group have agreed that the LEP will be commissioned to continue the programme management and monitoring of LGF and GBF and will continue to report to BLTB on these items. Other aspects of BLTB and BSTF activities that the LEP has previously supported for the BLTB are still to be agreed and will form part of the discussion of Item 5 of the agenda.

Risk Management

15. The delegation of programme management responsibilities to the LEP/BLTB brings risks. The well-established scrutiny of the transport projects given by both BST(O)F and BLTB meetings is designed to mitigate that risk.
16. There will be an element of risk for scheme promoters who invest in developing their schemes to full business case stage in accordance with the approved [Assurance Framework](#)^v. However, there is also risk involved in not developing the schemes; that risk is that any reluctance to bring the schemes forward will result in any final approval being delayed or refused.
17. The risks associated with each scheme are monitored locally. Appendix A below, shows the current risk rating of each of the live schemes, along with a comment relating to the status.
18. There are currently no transport projects rated with a red risk score.

Monitoring and Evaluation

19. The Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for the Thames Valley Berkshire Growth Deal has been agreed with government. In addition to the need for transport scheme promoters to collect and publish monitoring and evaluation reports that comply with DfT guidance for capital schemes, there will be requirements to cooperate with the overall monitoring and evaluation plan for the Growth Deal.
20. The difference between the two processes is that one concentrates on the transport impacts and the other on the economic impacts. The basic information required from each scheme promoter is set out in the scheme proformas. This requirement is less onerous for schemes under £5m Growth Deal contribution and runs to much more detail for the larger schemes.
21. For most schemes there will be little or no additional Growth Deal monitoring burden beyond that already signalled. Extra effort may be required to comply with the standard set out in the Monitoring and Evaluation plan which is “accurate, timely, verified and quality assured monitoring data.”
22. Local authorities are required to by BLTB to produce 1 and 5-year evaluation reports for each of the schemes. These are assessed by the LEP and reported to BLTB. For this month there are no reports ready to be submitted.

APPENDIX A Summary of all Transport Projects (funding in £m)

LEP Capital Infrastructure Programme Summary

Ref.	Scheme Name	Funding deal	RAG	Current update	*LTB Funding Approval	Start on Site	Planned / actual completion date	Total LEP funding
2.32	Maidenhead: Housing Sites Enabling Work Ph. 1	GD 3 reserv.	A	Delivery at risk for end of March 2024. Meeting being arranged with project lead to discuss and review options.	Cond Jan 19, lifted Jul 20	Nov-20	Due Mar-24	4.271
2.32	Maidenhead: Housing Sites Enabling Work Ph. 1	BRRP	A	Delivery at risk for end of March 2024. Meeting being arranged with project lead to discuss and review options.	Conds. Jan 19, lifted Jul 20	Nov-20	Due Feb 24	1.010
2.53	Parlaunt Road Traffic Signals and Highways Improvement	BRRP	A	The Parlaunt Road scheme design is being completed and the orders for the equipment have been raised. Likely to complete at least 2 junctions by end of March and the rest in April 2024. Call being arranged to agree approach.	Mar-23	Sep-23	Due Apr-24	0.750
2.55	Newbury - Newbury Wharf	BRRP	A	Work has been delayed and now awaiting BLTB approval of capital swap to allow works to be combined with planned UKSPF work in 2024/25. If approved will revert to Green status.	Mar-23	Sep-23	Due Dec-24	0.375
2.01	Newbury: King's Road Link Road	GD1	A/G	Project is back on track and the gas works have finished and the road works are in place. Remains amber/green given previous delays.	Mar-15	Oct-16	Due March 24	2.335
2.38	Theale Station Upgrade	GD 3 reserv.	A / G	BLTB approval to extend to Dec 2024. Access for All Bridge erected and GWR tendering for car park. Currently on track for revised timeframe but being closely monitored.	Cond June 20, lifted Dec 20	Mar-21	Due Dec 24	4.000
2.52	Civic Centre Decarbonisation	BRRP	A/G	Procurement issues meant this is now included as an enabling package in wider LUF Civic contract. Main contractor appointment and design works now complete. Works contract to be awarded Feb 24, with works to start May 24, for Oct 24 completion. Capital swap agreed.	Mar-23	Sep-23	Due Oct 24	0.825
2.54	Windsor Welcome	BRRP	G	Project planning ongoing to ensure timely delivery across the remainder of the financial year	Mar-23	Sep-23	Due Mar-24	0.785
2.24	Newbury: Railway Station	GD 3	G	The scope of this project has now been completed under budget. Station opening planned for 7 March. It has been agreed the LEP underspend will be used for additional small-scale upgrades and to resurface the south side car park.	Cond Jul 18, lifted Feb 19	Jan-19	Due Dec 24	6.691

2.31	Slough: Stoke Road Area Regeneration	GD 3 resrv.	G	Adjoining roadworks slightly behind schedule but still on track for Mar-24 completion.	Jul-19	Aug 19 enabling	Due Mar- 24	7.650
2.35	Reading: Reading West Station Upgrade	GD 3 resrv.	G	Work complete and opening scheduled for 12 March 2024	Nov-19	Feb-21	Due Feb-23	3.100
2.40	Windsor: Town Centre Package	GD 3 resrv.	G	Ahead of schedule and expected to complete by end of February 2024	Jul-20	Mar-21	Due Mar 24	1.563
2.34	Slough MRT Phase 2	BRRP	G	Final Snagging on main highway. Cycle route still to be designed as final element of MRT. P&R funding removed	Jan-19	Aug-19	Due Mar 24	8.603
2.48	M3-M4 Smarter Corridors	BRRP	G	Started on site and project is progressing well with the potential to finish slightly ahead of the programmed end date.	Mar-23	Sep-23	Due Mar 24	0.200
2.49	The Avenue Multi-Storey Car Park	BRRP	G	Project work has completed. Final accounts being drafted ready for sign off.	Mar-23	Sep-23	Due March 24	0.600
2.50	Toutley Depot Refurbishment	BRRP	G	Project is still progressing well and there was a change in the contractor as the original contractor went bust but work is continuing well.	Mar-23	Sep-23	Due Mar 24	0.800
2.51	Newbury - London Road Industrial Estate Regeneration	BRRP	G	Work starting on site Oct-23; beginning with pilot holes for environmental improvements on highway	Mar-23	Sep-23	Due Mar 24	0.375
2.02	Bracknell: Warfield Link Road	GD1	C	1-yr impact report published Mar 20	Jan-15	Feb-15	Apr 17; open Oct 18	3.500
2.03	Newbury: London Road Industrial Estate	GD1	C	1-yr impact report published Jul 18 Delays to linked housing	Mar-15	Feb-16	Mar-17	1.900
2.04	Wokingham Roads -Arborfield Cross Relief Rd	DfT major	C	1-yr impact report due March 2023	Jul & Aug 19 via DfT	Aug 19 enabling	Nov-20	24.000
2.05	Newbury: Sandford Park	GD2	C		Jul-16	Aug-18	Dec-21	2.000
2.06	Reading Green Park Railway Station	GD1	C	Station opened to public in June 23	Nov 14 & Jul 19	Mar-18	Dec-22	9.700
2.07	Bracknell: Coral Reef Roundabout	GD1	C	1-yr impact report published Nov 17, 5 yr report published Nov 2023	Jan-15	Apr-15	Apr-16	2.100
2.08	Slough Rapid Transit Phase 1	GD1	C	1-yr impact report published Mar 20	Jul-14	Dec-15	Dec 17; buses Mar 19	5.600
2.09.01	Sustainable Transport: NCN 422	GD1	C	1-yr impact report due Nov 2022	Nov-15	Jan-17	Dec-20	4.200
2.09.02	Sustainable Transport: A4 Cycle (with Bucks)	GD1	C	1-yr impact report published July 2021	Nov-15	Feb-17	Sep-18	0.483

2.10	Slough A332 Improvements	GD1	C	1-yr impact report published Nov 2021	Nov-14	Dec-15	Sep-19	2.700
2.11	South Reading Mass Rapid Transit Phase 1	GD1	C	1-yr impact report published Nov 21	Nov-15	Aug-16	Jan-00	2.970
2.12	South Reading Mass Rapid Transit Phase 2						Jan-00	1.530
2.13	Wokingham Thames Valley Park and Ride	GD1	C	1-yr impact report published Nov 2022	Jul-17	Feb-18	Nov-20	2.900
2.15	Bracknell: Martins Heron	GD1	C	1-yr impact report due published Nov 2021	Apr-17	Apr-17	Apr-19	2.900
2.16	Maidenhead: Station Access	GD 1	C		Nov-17	Jan-19	Oct-21	3.750
2.17	Slough: A355 route	GD 1	C	1-yr impact report published Jul 18	Nov-14	Dec-15	Feb-17	4.400
2.19	Bracknell: Town Centre Regeneration Infrastructure	GD 2	C	1-yr impact report published Mar 19	Nov-15	Apr-15	Sep-17	2.000
2.21	Slough: Langley Station Access	GD 2	C	1-yr impact report published Nov 2021	Nov-16	Mar-18	Feb-20	1.500
2.22	Slough: Burnham Station Access	GD 2	C	1-yr impact report published Jul 20	Mar-16	Jan-17	Apr-19	2.000
2.23	Reading: South Reading MRT Ph 3-4	GD 3	C	1-yr impact report due July 2024	Nov-17	Mar-18	Due Mar 22	2.340
2.27	Maidenhead Town Centre: Missing Links	GD 3	C	1-yr impact report due July 2024	Cond Nov 18, lifted Sep 19	Nov-20	Dec-22	2.242
2.28	Bracknell: A3095 Corridor	GD 3	C	1-yr impact report published Nov 2022	Jul-18	Oct 18 enabling	Nov-21	5.519
2.29	Wokingham: Winnersh Triangle Park & Ride	GD 3 resrv.	C	1-yr impact report due March 2024	Cond Mar 19, lifted May 19	Apr-21	Mar-23	4.240
2.36	Wokingham: Coppid Beech Park and Ride	GD 3 resrv.	C	1-yr impact report published Jul 18	Mar-20	Feb-21	Mar-22	2.400
2.37	Bracknell: A322 A329 Corridor Improvements	GD 3 resrv.	C		Nov-19, amended Jun 20	Nov-20	Nov-21	0.400
2.43	Wokingham: Barkham Bridge	GD 3 resrv.	C	1-yr impact report published July 2022	Nov-19	Nov-19	Feb-21	4.236
2.44	Reading Buses: Completing the Connection	GD 3 resrv.	C	1-yr impact report published July 2022	Cond July 20 lifted Nov 20	Nov-20	Mar-21	1.541

2.45	Slough Langley High Street phase 1	GD 3 resrv.	C	1-yr impact report due July 2024	Cond June 20 lifted Oct 20	Feb-21	Dec-22	1.324
2.46	Slough Langley High Street phase 2	GD 3 resrv.	C	1-yr impact report due July 2024	Cond Jul 20 lifted Oct 20	Feb-21	Dec-22	1.033
2.47	Bracknell Town Centre The Deck	GD 3 resrv.	C	1-yr impact report published Nov 2022	Cond Nov 20, lifted Dec 20	Feb-21	Aug-21	0.956
2.23	Reading: South Reading MRT Ph 3-4	BRRP	C		Nov-17	Mar-18	Due Mar 22	7.808
2.26	Wokingham: Winnersh Relief Road Phase 2	BRRP	C	1-yr impact report published July 2022	Conds. Nov 18, lifted Feb 19	Jan-19	May-21	6.260
2.42	South Wokingham Distributor Road – Eastern Gateway	BRRP	C	1-yr impact report due March 2023	Nov-19	Oct-19	Mar-22	5.000
GBF1	Slough Langley High Street phase 3	GBF	C	n/a	Cond. Nov 20; lifted May 21	Oct-21	Dec-22	1.643
GBF15	Bracknell A322 A329 Corridor Improvements	GBF	C		Jul-21	Nov-21	Mar-22	0.450
N/a	Independent assessment costs	GD 3 resrv.	N/a					0.004
N/a	BLIS development	BRRP	N/a	Work completed				0.090
N/a	Business Case Preparation	BRRP	N/a	6 proposals approved				0.600
N/a	Forward Plans Team	BRRP	N/a					0.750
N/a	Independent assessment of 1 & 5 year evaluations	BRRP	N/a	Transferred from LGF by adjusting LGF / BRRP proportions for project 2.32			Due Mar 27	0.041
2.14	East Reading MRT Phase 1	GD1		Project withdrawn				
2.25	East Reading MRT Phase 2	GD3						

ⁱhttps://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/327587/35_Thames_Valley_Berkshire_Growth_Deal.pdf

ⁱⁱhttps://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/399438/Thames_Valley_Berkshire_Factsheet.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱhttps://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/589268/170202_Thames_Valley_Berkshire_LEP_GD_factsheet.pdf

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