

ITEM: 8

**REPORT TO: WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

DATE: 24 October 2017

**REPORT TITLE: COVER PAPER ON FUNDING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
FEASIBILITY STUDIES**

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AUTHORITY**

Purpose of Report

- 1 To appraise the Scrutiny Committee of the forthcoming formal investment request to fund feasibility studies and the development of business cases for strategically important infrastructure schemes within the West of England Combined Authority area that will be considered at the WECA Committee on the 30th October.
- 2 The last WECA Scrutiny Committee on 22 September 2017 was advised that it was likely the WECA Committee at the end of October would be considering proposals for investment decisions. The paper detailing the proposals will be published on the 20th October as it is still being finalised. It will be shared with the Scrutiny Committee as soon as it is published.

Introduction to the upcoming investment decisions

- 3 The WECA Committee asked officers to consider whether there were any schemes suitable for an investment decision prior to the full prioritisation process being developed, in recognition that developing a fully funded investment programme for other regions has taken more than 18 months.
- 4 The schemes proposed to the WECA Committee are aimed at addressing key strategic issues in the region including improving transport infrastructure and unlocking housing and employment sites in areas that need it most. They also deliver against political ambition and have been approved by the Mayor and Leaders of the constituent councils.
- 5 If the Committee approves the schemes, we will kick-start the delivery process, initiating schemes which will alleviate the most pressing challenges in the region. This initial package of investments will provide certainty to our stakeholders that we are delivering on the region's strategic aims.

- 6 In addition, by investing devolved funds towards taking forward these infrastructure schemes, the Combined Authority is demonstrating its commitment to delivering the JSP and JTS which will add weight to potential bids for further central funding.
- 7 As discussed with you we are keen to ensure your views can be taken into account by the WECA committee before it makes its decision in line with your terms of reference and good governance.
- 8 The Infrastructure Advisory Board will also be given the opportunity to view the proposals and provide comment ahead of the WECA Committee on the 30th October.

Recommendation:

- 9 That the WECA Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes this update and provides comments on the WECA Committee report on infrastructure funding (which will be shared with members on the 20th October) at its meeting on 24th October.

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