

ITEM: 9

REPORT TO: WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY (“WECA”)

DATE: 18 APRIL 2018

REPORT TITLE: TRANSPORT UPDATE

AUTHOR: JAMES WHITE, INTERIM HEAD OF TRANSPORT

Purpose of Report:

- 1.1 To update Members on proposals for suburban rail in the West of England and the proposed allocation of additional pot hole funding for 2017/18.

Suburban Rail

- 2.1 The West of England Combined Authority continues to work with the Department for Transport and Network Rail to identify the next steps to develop local suburban rail services.
- 2.2 Discussions are taking place with Network Rail about enabling works required to support the development of the suburban rail network.
- 2.3 A decision on the bid for £47m submitted by North Somerset Council on behalf of the West of England local authorities to the Department for Transport’s Large Local Majors funding to deliver the Portishead Line is expected shortly.
- 2.4 Longer term feasibility studies into other new services, lines and stations will be undertaken as required.

Pot Hole funding

- 3.1 The Department for Transport (DfT) announced on 26 March 2018 a further £100m nationally to help repair local roads badly affected by recent winter weather. For WECA the amount is £1.24m. This is in addition to the allocation of £891K of Pothole Action Funding for 2017/18 for WECA confirmed on 31 March 2017 and a further allocation of £648k for 2017/18 announced as part of the Budget Statement on 22 November 2017. On both occasions funding was allocated directly to the constituent councils in line with the DfT formula. For the latest funding it is proposed to continue to use this formula.

- 3.2 The confirmed allocation of the further Pothole Action Fund for 2017/18 to the constituent councils is set out in the table below

Constituent Council	Grant Allocation £'s
Bath & NE Somerset Council	379,059
Bristol City Council	357,387
South Gloucestershire Council	504,258
TOTAL	1,240,704

Consultation:

- 4.1 Suburban rail proposals will be included in the draft Joint Local Transport Plan consultation planned for late spring/early summer 2018.

Other Options Considered:

- 5.1 The draft Joint Local Transport Plan will include a programme of major transport schemes including suburban rail proposals for prioritising and funding.

Risk Management/Assessment:

- 6.1 There are no ongoing financial risks to the WECA arising from the allocation of the pot hole funding and each constituent council will provide an annual certification as to the use and application of these funds. Each of the constituent councils will be responsible for their own risk management arrangements in delivering the services associated with this funding. Risk management/assessment will be part of the evaluation of suburban rail proposals.

Public Sector Equality Duties:

- 7.1 The key service functions associated with the application of the pot hole funding will continue to be delivered by the relevant constituent councils. Impact assessments for service delivery will therefore have been included as appropriate within their individual Budget reports. Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken as part of all suburban rail proposals.

Economic Impact Assessment:

- 8.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report. Suburban rail proposals will include an economic impact assessment as part of their evaluation.

Finance Implications:

- 9.1 There no additional financial implications beyond those set out in section 3 above – all grant expenditure proposed is fully covered by the income received from DfT. It is also expected that due to the timing of this announcement in the financial year, DfT will allow any unspent funding to be carried forward to 2018/19. This will be reflected in the grant offer letters to the constituent councils as appropriate.

Legal Implications:

- 10.1 The proposal for the allocation of pot hole funding is in line with appropriate Local Government Regulations, including the specific funding and related governance requirements set out in The West of England Combined Authority Order 2017 and The Combined Authorities (Finance) Order 2017.

Environmental Implications:

- 11.1 The report sets out measures to ensure the continued delivery of transport functions passed to the West of England Combined Authority. They all seek to promote the use of sustainable modes of transport and will, therefore, have a positive impact environmentally.

Land/Property Implications:

- 12.1 None arising from this report.

Human Resources Implications:

- 13.1 Suburban rail proposals are a joint project with resources provided by all four local authorities and WECA and supported by external consultants providing technical expertise. Each of the constituent councils is responsible for providing the resources necessary to spend the pot hole funding.

Recommendation:

The WECA is recommended to: -

1. **Note the proposals for Suburban Rail in the West of England.**
2. **Approve the Mayoral allocations of Pothole Action Fund grants totalling £1.24m to the constituent councils as set out in the table at paragraph 3.2 above.**
3. **Request the S151 Officer to make corresponding adjustment to the Mayoral Budget for 2017/18 and 2018/19 together with the associated capital grants.**

Report Author: James White, Interim Head of Transport

Background Papers

None

West of England Combined Authority Contact:

Any person seeking background information relating to this item should seek the assistance of the Contact Officer for the meeting who is **James White** and who is available by telephoning Joanna Greenwood on 0117 426210; writing to West of England Combined Authority, 3 Rivergate, Temple Way, Bristol BS1 6ER; email: democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk