

NORTH EAST JOINT TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
RECORD OF DELEGATED DECISION BY OFFICER

1. Subject of decision

Transforming Cities Fund Tranche 2 – Grant Funding Agreements (ITS)

Delegation Reference (Refer to Meeting Minute Number or Delegation Scheme in the Constitution or Decision Notice)

Decision Notice – JTC – 16 November 2021

Item 7: Transforming Cities Fund Tranche 2 – Grant Funding Agreements (ITS)

RESOLVED: The North East Joint Transport Committee:

- (i) Delegated authority to the Transport North East Managing Director, in consultation with the Section 73 Officer and Monitoring Officer, to approve the release of £18,607,188 from the TCF Devolved Pot to the ITS scheme, subject to successful appraisal in line with Transport Assurance Framework.
- (ii) Instructed officers to prepare and sign a Grant Funding Agreement with Newcastle City Council for the ITS scheme.

This decision has been delegated to one or more officer(s) under:

(a) A specific express authorisation was given to the *Proper Officer for Transport* by the *Joint Transport Committee* on *16.11.2021* to make and enter into appropriate contracts in relation to each project after specified consultation.

(b) a general authorisation to take such decisions **and**, the effect of the decision is to:

(i) grant a permission or licence;

(ii) affect the rights of an individual; or

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- (iii) award a contract or incur expenditure which, in either case, materially affects the Authority's financial position.

2. Name and Title of Decision Maker

Tobyn Hughes
Proper Officer for Transport for the North East Joint Transport Committee
Managing Director, Transport North East
tobyn.hughes@transportnortheast.gov.uk

3. Details of any Conflict of Interest and any Dispensation granted in respect of such Interest

None.

4. Executive Summary

This delegated decision will approve and allocate funding from the Transforming Cities Fund Devolved Pot to the regionwide Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) scheme following successful appraisal in accordance with the Transport Assurance Framework.

It was necessary to expedite approval of the scheme, given the need to place orders for signals equipment in early 2022, in order to meet the construction programme within Transforming Cities Fund timelines. Delegated authority was sought from the Joint Transport Committee for the Transport North East Managing Director, in consultation with the Section 73 Officer and Monitoring Officer, subject to successful appraisal of the scheme business case and due diligence in line with the Transport Assurance Framework, to approve the ITS scheme and enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with Newcastle City Council.

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This delegation will be exercised in two parts, as two separate Business Cases have been produced and it is time critical for scheme delivery to expedite the corridor and signals element of the ITS scheme. Appraisal on the Business Case covering these elements was successfully concluded on 22/03/2023. As such £14,757,188 of the total £18,607,188 Transforming Cities Fund allocation for the ITS scheme will be approved by this delegated decision. A grant funding agreement for the corridors and signals element of the scheme will be entered into. A second delegation will be made for the outstanding balance (£3,850,000) following the remaining RTP1 and AVLK elements of the ITS scheme progressing successfully through appraisal.

5. Decision(s)

5(a) Provide and enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with Newcastle City Council for £14,757,188 from the TCF Devolved Pot allocation for the Intelligent Transport Systems scheme.

5(b) If Exempt or Confidential, please provide a reason:

N/A

6. Alternative options considered

As part of the business case development for the ITS scheme a range of delivery options were assessed against value for money, risk and deliverability considerations. A preferred option was selected and progressed on the understanding that the approach offered the best mix of benefits offset against a comparably lower level delivery risk. The business case demonstrates why the chosen solution provides the best option in terms of meeting passenger needs whilst also providing value for public money.

Two options were presented to the North East Joint Transport Committee.

Option 1 – The North East Joint Transport Committee confer delegated authority to the Transport North East Managing Director, in consultation with the S73 Officer and the Monitoring Officer, to prepare and execute a Grant Funding Agreement with Newcastle City Council subject to a successful appraisal in line with the

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agreed regional Transport Assurance Framework, enabling the ITS scheme to deliver within TCF programme timescales.

Option 2 - The North East Joint Transport Committee do not accept the recommendations, in which case the ITS scheme will not be able to deliver in line with the TCF programme timescales and the passenger benefits outlined within the business case of the scheme would not be realised.

The Joint Transport Committee approved Option 1.

7. Reasons for the Decision(s)

The programme for the delivery of the scheme is on a critical path, Newcastle City Council are leading on the delivery of the ITS scheme on behalf of the region, and orders need to be placed for signals equipment given lengthening lead in times for delivery, works must start in early 2022 to complete within the TCF programme timescales.

Given the aforementioned time constraints associated with the programme of delivery for the scheme and the lack of an available Committee date in December, delegated authority was sought to approve the scheme Business Case subject to a positive appraisal outcome. It is vital that the decision-making process required to enable Newcastle City Council and NECA to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement (GFA) can be expedited so as not to forestall critical stages of delivery.

This delegation will be exercised in two parts due to the time critical nature of the signals and corridors elements of the ITS scheme, appraisal on these elements of the ITS scheme have been expedited and were successfully concluded on 22/03/2022. As such £14,757,188 of the £18,607,188 Transforming Cities Fund allocation for the ITS scheme will be approved by this delegated decision which will enable the ITS scheme to deliver within TCF programme timescales.

8. Contact Officer

Jonathan Bailes

Transport Programme Lead

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9. Date of Publication

23 March 2022

10. Date of Call-In Deadline

24 November 2021

11. Implementation Date

23 March 2022

Signature of the Decision Maker



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Please return the following to Emma Reynard in Democratic Services
(emmareynard@gateshead.gov.uk) **within 2 working days of the decision having
been taken.**

- A Word version of the completed Delegated Decision report
- A Word version of the completed Delegated Decision Record
- A scanned PDF version of the completed and signed Delegated Decision Record

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The Delegated Decision will be published by Democratic Services within three working days of it being taken, and it will then be open to call-in for a further five working days.

Decisions must not be implemented until the call-in process is completed. Democratic Services officers will advise report authors and decision makers of the relevant deadlines for call-in.