

NORTH EAST JOINT TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
RECORD OF DELEGATED DECISION BY OFFICER

1. Subject of Decision

Transforming Cities Fund Tranche 2 – Grant Funding Agreements (A690 Cycle Network)

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

Minute number 78 of the Joint Transport Committee meeting held on 18.01.2022

RESOLVED: The North East Joint Transport Committee:

- (iii) Delegated authority to the Transport North East Managing Director, in consultation with the Section 73 Officer and Monitoring Officer, to approve the release of £4,406,400 from the TCF Devolved Pot to the A690 Corridor Strategic Cycle Network scheme, subject to successful appraisal in line with the Transport Assurance Framework.
- (iv) Instructed officers to prepare and sign a Grant Funding Agreement with Sunderland City Council for the A690 Corridor Strategic Cycle Network scheme, if approved.

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 18.01.2022 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.

3. 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

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

None.

5. Executive Summary

This delegated decision will approve and allocate funding from the Transforming Cities Fund Devolved Pot to the Sunderland City Council, A690 Corridor Strategic Cycle Network scheme following successful appraisal in accordance with the Transport Assurance Framework.

It was necessary to expedite approval of the scheme in order to meet the construction programme outlined within the scheme Business Case 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 scheme and enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with Sunderland City Council.

6. Decision(s)

6(a) Provide and enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with Sunderland City Council for £2,937,991 from the TCF Devolved Pot allocation for the A690 scheme.

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

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N/A

7. Alternative options considered

As part of the Business Case development for the A690 Corridor Strategic Cycle Network 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 Sunderland City Council subject to a successful appraisal in line with the agreed regional Transport Assurance Framework, enabling the A690 Corridor Strategic Cycle Network scheme to deliver within TCF programme timescales.

Option 2 - The North East Joint Transport Committee do not accept the recommendations, in which case the A690 Corridor Strategic Cycle Network scheme will not be able to deliver in line with the TCF programme timescales and the benefits outlined within the Business Case of the scheme would not be realised.

The Joint Transport Committee approved Option 1.

8. Reasons for the Decision(s)

The programme for the delivery of the scheme is on a critical path, Sunderland City Council need to enter into a contract for the delivery of the scheme immediately upon appraisal outcome, in order for the scheme to deliver within TCF programme timescales. As such 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 Sunderland City Council and NECA to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement (GFA) can be expedited so as not to forestall critical stages of delivery.

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Appraisal on the Full Business Case has now successfully concluded. During the course of the appraisal it was identified that the cost of the scheme and therefore the TCF grant ask had significantly reduced from the financial ask set out in the Outline Business Case, reducing from £4,406,400 to £2,937,991 however £6,044.90 of this ask was previously claimed at the end of 2020/21, and as such this Delegated Decision will approve £2,931,946.10 from the Transforming Cities Fund Tranche 2 Devolved pot for the A690 Corridor Strategic Cycle Network scheme and a Grant Funding Agreement for the scheme will be progressed on this basis and signed.

9. Contact Officer

Jonathan Bailes
Head of Funding and Programmes
Jonathan.Bailes@transportnortheast.gov.uk

10. Date of Publication

16 May 2022

11. Date of Call-In Deadline

N/A

12. Implementation Date

16 May 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

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.