

Title: Transport for City Regions – Strategic Studies
Portfolio: Transport
Responsible Director: Tobyn Hughes, Director of Transport
Report Author: Andrew Dorrian – Principal Transport Planner

Report Summary

At the March, June, and September 2025 Cabinet meetings, the North East Mayoral Strategic Authority (North East MSA) Cabinet agreed to allocate £1.25m of City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) capacity funding to support the continued development of the Mayor's programme of transport investment. Approval was granted by Cabinet and authorisation granted to the Director of Transport to undertake associated procurement activity in accordance with the Authority's Commissioning and Procurement rules.

Study	Budget Agreed	Cabinet (Decision Ref)
Bus Priority / Integrated Infrastructure	£140,000	June 2025 (C11/06/25)
Active Travel Network Study	£130,000	June 2025 (C11/06/25)
Bike Hire Feasibility Study	£120,000	June 2025 (C11/06/25)
Independent Assessment of Transport Schemes	£110,000	June 2025 (C11/06/25)
Critical Infrastructure Study	£450,000	March 2025 (C75/03/25)
Accessibility Study	£150,000	September 2026 (C30/09/25)
Safety of Women and Girls Study	£150,000	September 2026 (C30/09/25)
Total	£1.25m	

Seven independent competitive procurement activities have been undertaken to advance the studies.

Recommendations

The Director of Transport is recommended to approve the following awards of contracts to Bloom Services Limited with sub-contracts to the following contractors to deliver the services required to advance schemes in the Mayor's Transport Plan:

Study	Procured Value	Appointed Contractor
Bus Priority / Integrated Infrastructure	£84,962.98	WSP UK Limited
Active Travel Network Study	£75,522.54	WSP UK Limited
Bike Hire Feasibility Study	£75,599.99	Cundall Johnston and Partners
Independent Assessment of Transport Schemes	£73,660.00	AECOM Limited
Critical Infrastructure Study	£120,597.72	AtkinsRealis UK Limited
Accessibility Study	£66,500.00	Mott MacDonald Consultants Limited

Safety of Women and Girls Study	£75,522.54	WSP UK Limited
Total	£572,365.77	

A. Context

1. Background

- 1.1 Cabinet approved the requirement to undertake these seven studies as means of taking preparatory steps to develop priorities included in the Mayor's Local Transport Plan for delivery in the next funding window (2027-2032).
- 1.2 Procurement was undertaken through Bloom Services Limited and evaluated by internal and external assessors.

2. Current position

- 2.1 Undertaking these studies will help advance interventions included in the Mayor's Transport Plan and present a robust set of propositions for consideration by Cabinet in September 2026.
- 2.2 Seven procurement exercises have been undertaken via Bloom to identify the preferred suppliers. It is noted that procurements have derived savings, proposals for the use of which will be monitored through the delivery of the contracts.
- 2.3 Following approval, works will be progressed and outputs finalised, with work concluding in Autumn 2026.

B. Impact on North East Mayoral Strategic Authority Objectives

The programmes in totality will seek to deliver a Green Integrated Transport Network that works for all and will support the following objectives of the North East MSA:

A Greener North East – The studies will identify actions that can be taken to encourage users to travel actively and sustainably with consequent benefits for the environment and health.

A Connected North East – This review will identify improvements to increase the reach and quality of active travel, public transport across the region as well as the resilience of the network.

A Successful North East: The studies and the subsequent delivery of measures will help to grow the region's economy by enabling more people to reach jobs, leisure and tourism destinations, and helping to create vibrant, thriving places.

C. Key risks

The key risk associated with this decision is ensuring the studies can be concluded in a sufficient time to inform programme development.

D. Financial and other resources implications

At its meeting in March, June and September 2025, Cabinet approved the release of up to £1.25m of City Region Sustainable Transport Revenue funding to carry out these studies. The procurement activities covered by this delegated decision will utilise £0.572m of that approved amount.

E. Legal implications

The comments of the representative of the Monitoring Officer are incorporated into the body of this report.

F. Equalities implications

The North East MSA follows the [Public Sector Equality duty](#) and this report has due regard to the need to achieve the objectives set out under s149 of the Equality Act 2010. In June 2024 the North East MSA adopted equality objectives to reflect the different roles of the North East MSA as an employer, a commissioner and deliverer of services, and a civic leader.

G. Consultation and engagement

A key element of this review will be the involvement of Stakeholders including the Expert Panels, comprising people with lived experience of safety and accessibility issues when seeking to seek our public transport network, ensuring that the review process and findings fully reflect user needs.

The investment proposal is fully aligned with delivering the Local Transport Plan which was approved at the March 2025 Cabinet.

H. Appendices

None

I. Background papers

None

J. Contact officer

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