

**WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY COMMITTEE
& WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT COMMITTEE**

ITEM 11

9 October 2020

REPORT SUMMARY SHEET

**REGIONAL COVID-19 RESPONSE & RECOVERY PLAN AND CLIMATE
EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN**

Purpose

To provide the committees with the West of England Covid-19 Recovery Plan and the related Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Summary

This report includes the following key information:

- These plans set out how the West of England intends to work towards rebuilding the economy of the region following the Covid-19 pandemic, and how addressing the Climate Emergency is at the heart of the region's ambition for a clean and inclusive recovery.
- This agenda item covers two separate plans which are related but independent of each other - the Covid-19 Recovery Plan is attached at annex 1 of this paper and the Climate Emergency Action Plan including a cover paper is attached at annex 2.
- The Regional Economic Recovery Taskforce was established in May to lead work across the West of England to drive economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and to feed into the Government's national recovery planning. The Taskforce is a partnership between the West of England Combined Authority, the Local Enterprise Partnership, business, universities and the region's councils. The Taskforce has consulted widely with representatives of the business community, voluntary and community sector and academia to develop an action plan for the region's recovery. This plan is attached at annex 1 and sets out the actions required to drive a clean and inclusive recovery in the short to medium term.
- This Recovery Plan sets out strategic actions to support rebuilding of the region's economy across 5 pillars:
 - Rebuild business** to help new and existing businesses to survive and thrive in order to safeguard existing and create new jobs.
 - Get residents back to work** in jobs which pay above the living wage and offer security of employment through targeted training and brokerage to available opportunities.
 - Strengthening inclusion** to prevent further widening of inequalities and build an inclusive economy where everyone has the opportunity to achieve their potential,

reducing inequality gaps.

Green recovery to use the changes in behaviour brought about by the pandemic to accelerate our transition to net zero carbon.

Renew places to re-think our approach to 'place' creating greener, healthier, more vibrant places to live and work and so continuing to attract people from across the world.

- The recovery plan should be considered as an initial approach to address the immediate impacts of the crisis. Whilst the pandemic has already had a significant impact on the region, the situation continues to evolve and the full extent of the long term implications are not yet clear. Work to respond to the impacts of the pandemic will continue over the coming months.
- This report also sets out the Climate Emergency Action Plan for approval at annex 2. The plan has been developed with input from representatives from our unitary authority partners, who have given their time, knowledge, expertise and skills to inform its content through a series of workshops. This co-production approach will continue in implementing the actions in the plan.
- There has also been close working with businesses to understand their needs and how WECA can help foster green innovation and invest in the skills needed to make sure the region takes advantage of the economic benefits of clean growth.
- Each year, a report on progress against actions set out in the 5 challenge areas will be produced in line with WECA's monitoring and evaluation framework. As actions are developed to the business case stage, estimated carbon reductions will be monitored and evaluated.

Recommendations

The Combined Authority Committee and the Joint Committee are asked to:

1. Endorse the regional Covid-19 Recovery Plan and support the next stages of the Taskforce's work.
2. Approve the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

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9 October 2020

REPORT SUMMARY SHEET

**LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP AND INVEST BRISTOL & BATH
BUDGET OUTTURN: APRIL – JUNE 2020**

Purpose

This report presents the forecast revenue outturn for the West of England Joint Committee for the financial year 2020/21 based on data for the period April 2020 to June 2020. This report covers the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Invest Bristol and Bath (IBB) revenue budgets.

Summary

This report includes the following key information:

- The LEP is forecasting a small end of year underspend of £80k due mainly to treasury management surpluses and timing of grant spend.
- Total grants attracted for the 3 year period up to March 2023 is now £8.6m with an increase from £4.4m to £5.6m within the current financial year.
- An end of year underspend of £88k is currently forecast in terms of IBB activity.

Recommendations

That the Joint Committee:

- Notes the Local Enterprise Partnership revenue outturn as set out in Appendix 1.**
- Notes the Invest in Bristol & Bath revenue outturn as set out in Appendix 2.**

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WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT COMMITTEE

9 October 2020

REPORT SUMMARY SHEET

LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP ONE FRONT DOOR FUNDING PROGRAMME

Purpose

To consider new business cases and changes to schemes within the current Local Growth Fund (LGF), Economic Development Fund (EDF) and Revolving Infrastructure Fund (RIF) programmes.

Summary

This report includes the following key information:

- An update is provided on the current LGF programme and the profile of spend (Figure 1).
- The report sets out the allocations through the Getting Building Fund and the way this will be integrated with the LGF programme (paragraph 5.1 - 5.3).
- Proposals are set out for the reallocation of Bristol City Council's EDF and a Full Business Case is presented for Temple Quarter Enabling Infrastructure.
- The intention to create a Temple Quarter Joint Delivery Team is described in paragraph 6.3.
- The report sets out changes to schemes within the current funding programme for which approval is sought (Appendix 1 and 2)
- An update is provided on the expected additional Government funding for the New Green Homes Delivery Programme through the SW Energy Hub.

Impact of Covid-19 pandemic

The Combined Authority has actively reviewed its key activities and work programme to reflect changing priorities as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Specific issues relating to the Covid-19 situation that impact on or are addressed through this report are as follows:

- The Local Growth, Economic Development and Revolving Infrastructure Funds are focused on supporting economic growth and the delivery of the schemes within these programmes will positively contribute to the economic recovery.

Recommendations

Members of the Joint Committee are asked to:

1. Approve the proposals for the use of the Getting Building Fund as set out in paragraphs 5.1 - 5.3.
2. To approve the Full Business Case for Temple Quarter Enabling Works up to £32m, with a requirement on the Council to provide detailed information on the works specification and anticipated cost profile.
3. Approve the change requests for schemes within the LGF programme as set out in Appendix 1.
4. Approve the change requests for schemes within the EDF and RIF programmes set out in Appendix 2.
5. To delegate the detailed funding allocations and grant funding arrangements for the South West Energy Hub Green Homes Grant to the WECA Chief Executive in consultation with the South West LEP Chief Executives.

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9 October 2020

REPORT SUMMARY SHEET

WECA & MAYORAL BUDGET OUTTURN: APRIL 2020 – JUNE 2020

Purpose

To present the forecast revenue budget financial outturn information for WECA and the Mayoral budget for the financial year 2020/21 based on actual data for the period from April 2020 to June 2020.

Summary

This report includes the following key information:

Mayoral budget:

- The Mayoral Fund's forecast revenue outturn position for 2020/21 is a small underspend of £11k as detailed in Appendix 1;
- A contribution of £396k will be made to an earmarked reserve, in line with budget, to meet the estimated costs of the Combined Authority Mayoral election in 2021.

WECA revenue budget:

- WECA's estimated outturn revenue position for 2020/21 is a net surplus of £565k, (Appendix 2), which is due to higher income received from cash balances;
- The report details various transport grants received by government for supporting local bus operators through Covid;
- Spend on specific projects (see figure 3) is forecast to be £10m higher than originally budgeted, which is due mainly to additional investment fund approved projects and rephasing of project spend carried forward from 2019/20;
- An updated 3-year revenue forecast for all approved investment fund projects is detailed in Appendix 3;
- The report proposes an internal virement from treasury management surpluses and a reduction in external contract spend to permanently establish finance capacity (which will have no impact on the bottom-line budget);
- £500k was moved into a specific business rates income reserve at the end of the 2019/20 financial year against which we are proposing to drawdown £403k to meet income shortfalls in the current financial year.

Impact of Covid-19 pandemic

The Combined Authority has actively reviewed its key activities and work programme to reflect changing priorities as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Specific issues relating to the Covid-19 situation that impact on or are addressed through this report are as follows:

- (a) There will be an impact on 2020/21 revenue budgets as core activity, and investment funding, is re-prioritised and re-focused on supporting economic recovery;
- (b) There is particular concern regarding the achievability of business rates growth targets which will directly impact on a significant proportion of WECA's core operating revenue;
- (c) Concessionary fare payments to bus operators have been made in line with budgeted profile throughout the first quarter of the financial year to maintain continuity of service, along with contract payments for supported bus services and payments to community transport providers.
- (d) Payments to Adult Education providers have also been made in line with budgeted profile to maintain stability of the provider base.

Recommendations

Members of the Combined Authority Committee are asked to:

- a) Note the Mayoral Fund revenue outturn as detailed in Appendix 1.
- b) Note the WECA revenue outturn as detailed in Appendix 2.
- c) Approve the continuation of paying concessionary fares, in line with budgeted profile, to local transport operators up to 31 December 2020, and to Community Transport Providers and in respect of current Service Contracts with delegation for enabling these payments provided to the Head of Strategic Transport Integration.
- a) Approve an internal virement of £150k from Treasury Management surplus and consultancy savings to establish capacity in the financial services team.
- b) Approve a drawdown of £403k from the WECA Business Rates Reserve to fund the projected income shortfall in business rates for 2020/21.

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9 October 2020

REPORT SUMMARY SHEET

INVESTMENT FUND

Purpose

To seek approval for feasibility, development and delivery funding, and for change requests for schemes within the current approved programme.

Summary

This report includes the following key information:

- The report outlines the £32.2m headroom identified from a review of the current £350m Investment Fund programme to 2022/23.
- Funding of £100k is sought to undertake a feasibility study to develop an understanding of the scope and cost of works needed to make all stations step free.
- An Outline Business Case has been produced for the Yate Park & Ride project to implement a 195 space car park on the A432 near Yate station.
- The report updates on progress with the development of Green Infrastructure projects (paragraph 17-20).
- An update is provided on work to identify projects through the Covid-19 recovery funding and an increase to this funding is sought (paragraph 25).
- Work on developing pipeline projects which could draw on the Investment Fund Business and Skills allocation is summarised in paragraph 26.
- A Full Business Case is presented for approval for the South Bristol Workspace which would deliver light industrial units adjacent to the Bottleyard Studios.
- A Full Business Case has been submitted for Reboot West, a programme to support young people leaving care into work and training.
- Approval is sought for a number of change requests for scheme within the current programme as set out in Appendix 2.
- The report presents the capital programme.

Impact of Covid-19 pandemic

The Combined Authority has actively reviewed its key activities and work programme to reflect changing priorities as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Specific issues relating to the Covid-19 situation that impact on or are addressed through this report are as follows:

- Paragraph 25 of the report sets out planned projects through an allocation of funding to drive Covid-19 economic recovery.
- More generally supporting clean and inclusive economic growth is a key driver for the Investment Fund and all the projects within the programme will make a positive contribution to assisting the economic recovery.
- WECA will continue to review the deliverability, and priority, of its investment programme in response to Covid-19. Further updates will be provided through each committee cycle.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

1. Note the identification of £32.2m of headroom in the programme to 2022/23 as set out in paragraph 5-7.
2. To approve the Feasibility and Development Funding Application for the Access for All – Step Free Stations Feasibility Study and award of £100k.
3. To approve the Outline Business Case for the Yate A432 Park & Ride and delegate approval of the Full Business Case to the WECA Chief Executive in consultation with the Chief Executives of the constituent Councils.
4. To allocate a further £4.395m to the regional recovery fund from the Business and Skills allocation, with individual project business case approvals falling within the existing delegation to the WECA Chief Executive in consultation with the Chief Executives of the constituent Councils.
5. To approve the Full Business Case for the South Bristol Workspace and the award of £2.7m subject to securing the ERDF funding, obtaining planning consent, resolution of land issues and finalising the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
6. To approve the Reboot West Full Business Case and award of £720k subject to securing the match funding, finalising the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and provision of a detailed programme.
7. Approve the change requests for schemes within the current programme as set out in Appendix 2.
8. To amend the approved capital programme for individual project approvals agreed at the June Committee and within this report.

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