

4 December 2020

REPORT SUMMARY SHEET

STRATEGIC RAIL INVESTMENT

Purpose

To present the 10 Year Rail Delivery Plan to Joint and WECA Committee, and to request appropriate delegated responsibility for decisions to allow the continued delivery of the West of England rail programme.

Summary

The Committee paper will seek endorsement for the recommendations in the 10 Year Rail Delivery Plan and make recommendations for the necessary delegations to support the budget and contractual requirements to deliver rail capital programmes.

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:

- Transport infrastructure plays a key role in regenerating economies through job creation during construction and permanently, post scheme opening. Better transport connectivity connects communities with educational and employment opportunities. The infrastructure works referenced within this report will contribute positively to the post Covid-19 economic recovery
- Investments in railway could significantly reduce carbon dioxide emissions from transport, and its contribution to air pollution, while providing access to efficient and sustainable transport for all. Expanding rail transport in growing urban centres will also increase reliability, reduce congestion and noise pollution, and improve local air quality. This is important for the long-term health and resilience of the region.

Recommendations

Members of the Joint Committee are asked to approve:

- **Recommendation 1:** It is recommended that Joint Committee adopt the 10 Year Rail Delivery Programme and endorse its programme of schemes as the basis for future rail investment in the West of England area.
- **Recommendation 2:** It is recommended that Joint Committee delegates authority to the WECA CEO in conjunction with UA CEOs to approve the project scope and value for money assessment and release of funding for the next phase of MetroWest Phase 1a (Severn Beach & Westbury Lines) works up to value of £1m from within the Investment Fund from within the agreed £116.4m of MetroWest Phase 1 budget to facilitate the start of enhanced services.
- **Recommendation 3:** It is recommended that WECA Committee delegates responsibility for approval of the full business case for up to £552k from the

Investment Fund for the Access for All (AfA) station enhancements to the WECA CEO in conjunction with the UA CEOs.

- **Recommendation 4:** It is recommended that Joint Committee delegates authority to the WECA CEO in conjunction with UA CEOs to approve the signing of an Enhanced Service and Funding Support Agreement with First Greater Western Limited to support initial start-up costs to enable operation of MetroWest Services.

Contact officer: Kathryn Vowles

Position: Head of Capital Delivery

Email: kathryn.vowles@westofengland-ca.gov.uk