

# SCRUTINY REPORT



**MEETING:** Scrutiny and Overview Committee

**DATE:** 16 July 2019

**SUBJECT:** MAYOR'S CHALLENGE FUND UPDATE

**REPORT FROM:** Councillor Alan Quinn, Cabinet Member - Environment

**CONTACT OFFICER:** David Giblin

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## INTRODUCTION

In June 2018 the Greater Manchester Mayor's Cycling and Walking Commissioner, Chris Boardman, published 'Beelines - a walking and cycling infrastructure proposal'. It was a response to serious problems of obesity, poor air quality, and congestion in Greater Manchester – and the limited progress made in changing people's travel behaviour.

It proposed new standards in highway infrastructure and a walking/cycling network of 1,600 kilometres (1,000 miles), including 120 kilometres (75 miles) of segregated routes and 1,400 new crossings. It mapped a first draft network of routes and also reported the GM Mayor's decision to allocate £160 million to begin constructing the network. The total cost of all the proposed improvements will be over £1bn and will take many years to complete.

In order to tap into this funding stream, GM Local Authorities needed to submit pro forma application forms outlining details of their proposals. The "windows" for such submissions come around every quarter and are called tranches.

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

Upon a successful pro forma submission, the status of "initial programme entry" is awarded to the submitted scheme. This is, in essence, a green light to undertake more design work up to such a point that either the scheme is determined no longer viable subsequent to more detailed analysis and dropped or a business case is submitted containing, among other things, a value for money appraisal. Business cases such as these are appraised by a cycling team at the GMCA and approval at this stage will grant a scheme "full programme entry".

Council's incurred costs can be recovered for the period between initial and full programme entry irrespective of whether or not the scheme gains GMCA approval or is abandoned.

With full programme entry comes a commitment for the scheme to be funded from the £160m Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund (MCF). This covers

construction costs and design/supervision fees.

The cost of the design and project management of this type of scheme is typically around 10% to 15% of the total value. As there is no spare in-house resource an external designer (Atkins) has been appointed through Transport for Greater Manchester's professional services framework.

Atkins are assisting the Council with the preparation of a cohesive walking and cycling plan for implementing the Bee Network in the borough. This includes the following key elements:-

- The identification and design of cycling upgrades in conjunction with required improvements to the highway network taking full account of existing demand, latent demand and safety considerations;
- Identifying pedestrian and public realm improvements including the opportunity for delivering filtered neighbourhoods<sup>1</sup>;
- Providing technical input to ensure the pro forma submissions secure programme entry status; and
- Producing robust business cases to enable schemes to gain full programme entry and secure the required funding.

We are also seeking to secure a programme manager resource from Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) who have employed additional staff to assist with delivery.

## **2.0 SCHEMES**

To date, there have been 5 opportunities for bid submissions.

### **Tranche 1 – List of Schemes**

The MCF Tranche 1 submission bid (18 June 2018) for circa £2.2m included the introduction of new crossings to improve walking and cycling routes and road safety for vulnerable users at the following locations:

#### *New signalised Junctions*

1. A6044 Rainsough Brow/ Kersal Vale Road, Prestwich
2. Heywood Road/Rectory Lane, Prestwich
3. A667 Ringley Road/Stand Lane, Radcliffe

#### *Upgraded existing signalised junctions*

1. A56 Bury New Road/St Anns Road, Prestwich
2. A665 Bury Old Road/Heywood Road, Prestwich
3. A665 Higher Lane/Pinfold Road, Whitefield
4. A665 Higher Lane/Dales Lane, Whitefield
5. A56 Manchester Road/Sunnybank Road, Whitefield
6. A58 Angouleme Way & Manchester Road (1 arm only)
7. Junction 1 M66, Ramsbottom

#### *New Toucan crossings*

1. Higher Ainsworth Road x 2, Radcliffe

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<sup>1</sup> Filtered neighbourhoods - A neighbourhood where the movement of people is prioritised over the movement of motor vehicles. Typically this is achieved by creating cul-de-sac style access for cars but allowing through traffic for people walking and cycling. This approach creates spaces to play and socialise and enables more green areas to be created.

2. A56 Manchester Road near Gigg Lane, Bury
3. B6213 Bury Road near Darlington Close, Bury
4. B6215 Brandlesholme Road (end of Kirklees trail), Greenmount

#### *Upgraded existing crossing point to a toucan*

1. Knowsley Street, Bury

Since gaining Programme Entry status, some of the schemes identified are now being pursued through other initiatives such as Local Growth Deal funding. In addition, feasibility work has led to some rationalisation of the remaining schemes, with the scope of some of them being extended and others being removed as they are not capable of delivering infrastructure to the design specification required by MCF. The schemes now being taken forward through the MCF Tranche 1 business case are as follows:-

#### *Proposed new Toucan / Shared use crossings*

1. A56 Manchester Road near Gigg Lane

#### *Proposed new signalised junction featuring pedestrian and cycling facilities*

1. A6044 Rainsough Brow / Kersal Vale Road, Prestwich
2. Heywood Road / Rectory Lane, Prestwich

#### *Proposed upgrade of existing signalised junction for pedestrians and cyclists*

1. A665 Bury Old Road / Heywood Road, Prestwich
2. A665 Higher Lane / Pinfold Lane & Higher Lane & A665 Higher Lane & Dales Lane, Whitefield
3. The Town Hall Triangle - A58 Angouleme Way / A56 Manchester Road – junction upgrade, A58 Angouleme Way / Knowsley Street – junction upgrade & Knowsley Street Toucan conversion - Bury East

### **Tranche 5 – List of Schemes**

The MCF Tranche 5 bid for circa £3.6m included for delivering new crossings and route improvements in the Fishpool neighbourhood was submitted on the 05 April 2019. The announcement on Programme Entry status for this scheme was expected on the 28 June 2019. Initial feedback from TfGM regarding the development of the submission was very positive.

The key elements of the Fishpool Neighbourhood Bee Network scheme include two new crossing on the KRN<sup>2</sup>, two new crossings on Market Street (one on a busy route), a new crossing over the River Roch and improvements to route connections for walking and cycling. This will help to cohesively deliver the Bee Network in the Borough, connecting neighbourhoods in south Bury and achieving full permeability through Fishpool to provide access to the town centre and Pilsworth Industrial Estate by walking and cycling. It will also open the potential to connect with two strategic areas of development outlined in the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF), Northern Gateway and Elton Reservoir. It also shows the relationships with the committed Growth Deal 2 scheme on Market Street and MCF Tranche 1 schemes on the KRN (A58 Angouleme Way and A56 Manchester Road) to demonstrate the wider network linkages.

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<sup>2</sup> Key Route Network - the name given to the collection of strategic routes within Greater Manchester. Bury's sections of the A56 and A58 fall within the KRN.

### **3.0 FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES (Tranche 6 Schemes)**

Several pro formas are currently being prepared for submission to MCF Tranche 6 on the 26 July 2019. These include:

#### *Pimhole Neighbourhood Bee Network*

The key elements of the Pimhole Neighbourhood Bee Network scheme include three new crossings on the KRN (A58 Rochdale Road) and a new crossing on the B6219 Heywood Street (a busy route), and improvements to route connections for walking and cycling. This will help to cohesively deliver the Bee Network in the Borough, connecting neighbourhoods north-south in east Bury and achieving full permeability through Pimhole. This will help provide access to the town centre, Pimhole Business Park and Pilsworth Industrial Estate by walking and cycling and the potential to connect to a strategic area of development outlined in the GMSF, Northern Gateway. This scheme is located to the east of the town centre, adjacent to the MCF Tranche 5 scheme.

#### *Pilsworth Bee Network*

The key elements of the Pilsworth Bee Network scheme include two new crossings on Pilsworth Road (a busy route) and a new crossing at M66 Junction 3. This will help to cohesively deliver the Bee Network in the Borough, connecting the town centre and Bury Interchange with Pilsworth Industrial Estate through increasing permeability by walking and cycling, and the potential to connect to a strategic area of development outlined in the GMSF, Northern Gateway. This is intrinsically linked to the MCF Tranche 5 scheme and provides the remaining proposed crossings to complete this comprehensive scheme.

#### *Radcliffe Central Bee Network*

The key elements of the Radcliffe Central Bee Network scheme include a new crossing over the River Irwell and improvements to route connections for walking and cycling. This will help to cohesively deliver the Bee Network in the Borough, connecting Cross Lane neighbourhood to Radcliffe Metrolink stop and Radcliffe Town Centre by walking and cycling and the potential to connect to a major housing development proposed on the site of the former East Lancashire Paper Mill. This scheme could also potentially provide links to the Elton Bee Network via NCN Route 6.

#### *M60 Haweswater Underpass – Bee Network Improvements*

Highways England has been working with TfGM to identify where the emerging Bee Network interfaces with the strategic road network, to develop a prioritised list of locations for bids to the Highways England Funds in Roads Period 2 (2020 to 2025). If the bid is successful, together with MCF this funding will help to upgrade the facilities at these priority locations and develop a cohesive Bee Network in Bury by addressing key severance points on the network. Highways England and Bury Council are working together to submit a proposal to upgrade Haweswater Underpass which passes beneath the M60 near J18.

#### *Elton Bee Network*

The key elements of the Elton Bee Network scheme include a new crossing over the River Irwell and improvements to route connections for walking and cycling between National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 6 at Elton and Bury Town Centre. This will help to cohesively deliver the Bee Network in the Borough and improve connections to the town centre by walking and cycling, and the potential to connect to the strategic area of development outlined in the GMSF at Elton Reservoir. This scheme would interface with the MCF Tranche 1 and Tranche 5 schemes.

## **4.0 Conclusion**

Bury Council has welcomed the GM Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund initiative and has submitted schemes worth about £6 million to date with the intention of submitting schemes in the upcoming tranche 6 bidding window approaching a further £10 million.

If all the schemes we have or will submit are able to demonstrate their viability and gain full programme entry, residents of the Borough will benefit from around £16 million worth of new cycling and walking infrastructure by mid-2022.

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### **List of Background Papers:-**

#### **Contact Details:-**

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25 June 2019