

Report to:	Cabinet	Date: 17 November 2021
Subject:	Success on Levelling Up Fund Bids and City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement	
Report of	Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth	

Summary

To inform the Cabinet of the recent successful bids to the Government's Levelling Up Fund and the benefit to Bury from the recent submission by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) to the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement. The report also sets out next steps on implementation of the schemes funded from these sources.

Recommendations

1. That the success of the Council's bids for funding from the Government's Levelling Up Fund for Radcliffe Civic Hub and Bury Market Flexi Hall, and the success of the GMCA's bid to the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement be noted.
2. That the arrangements for delivery of the schemes funded from the Levelling Up Fund and City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement, as set out in this report be noted.
3. That the Chief Executive be requested to submit further reports to future meetings of Cabinet on:-
 - a) The governance of the implementation of the Bury Flexi Hall.
 - b) The implementation of a People and Community Plan to support the Radcliffe Strategic Regeneration Framework.
 - c) The development of a transport strategy to underpin the implementation of schemes funded from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 On 26 May 2021, the Cabinet agreed to develop and submit to Government two Levelling Up Fund applications; one for the development of a new civic hub in Radcliffe and a second for a new market flexi hall in Bury Town Centre.
- 1.2 As part of the Government's budget on 27 October 2021 it was announced that both Levelling Up Fund bids had been successful at the maximum amount bid of £20m each.
- 1.3 The GMCA agreed at its meeting on 20 July 2021 to prepare a submission for Greater Manchester to the Government's new City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement. It was announced on 23 October 2021 that the GMCA had been successful in their application and had received £1.07bn. Bury will benefit substantially from this funding.
- 1.4 The purpose of this report is to inform the Cabinet of the arrangements for delivery of the schemes funded. Together these schemes will make a significant contribution to the Let's Do It Strategy aspiration for inclusive economic growth.

2. Radcliffe Levelling Up Fund Bid

- 2.1 The Levelling Up Fund bid for Radcliffe will deliver a new civic and enterprise hub in the heart of Radcliffe, creating a focus for leisure, learning, community and enterprise within the town centre. The project comprises:
 - Civic hub - the creation of a new wellness and civic hub will deliver a new leisure centre, as existing temporary leisure facilities are demolished to enable the delivery of a vital new secondary school. Council workspace and the library will be relocated, offering flexible facilities that will provide a focus for skills, adult education and community activities at the heart of Radcliffe town centre.
 - Market Chambers – the building will be refurbished to deliver flexible co-working space, whilst also creating a new central venue as a focus for civic, cultural and creative events in Radcliffe town centre.
 - Radcliffe enterprise – the relocation of the library into the civic hub will enable the redevelopment of the existing premises to create a business centre as a focus for enterprise, entrepreneurship and innovation.
 - Active civic spaces – the public realm will integrate with pedestrian and cycle routes bringing together assets as a vibrant civic quarter.

- 2.2 A delivery plan is in place with key milestones for implementation including:
- Between November 2021 and June 2022 – site investigations, survey and design work, and planning consents.
 - By June 2022 - fully designed schemes and construction programme in place, with further reports to Cabinet seeking required approvals.
 - Start on site September 2022.
 - Levelling Up Fund to be fully spent by March 2024.
- 2.3 The development of a new civic and enterprise hub is a cornerstone of the Radcliffe Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF), which is a key Council priority. The SRF identifies a clear set of interventions and wider strategies to guide growth and regeneration for the whole of Radcliffe. The strategic priority is to focus on the core of the town centre, acting as a catalyst for further redevelopment and investment across the wider Radcliffe area. The Hub is a priority intervention at the heart of this strategy.
- 2.4 The project builds upon a comprehensive programme of consultation, initially through the Radcliffe SRF and then through targeted engagement in relation to the hub project. An engagement strategy for the hub project has been adopted and has guided further consultation in relation to the proposals. A range of events will be hosted throughout key points of the design process, utilising the regeneration office in Radcliffe to display plans. Online webinars and workshop sessions are also planned, together with targeted consultation with specific voluntary and community groups.
- 2.5 The Strategic Commissioning Board, at its meeting on 4 October 2021, considered the health and wellbeing aspects of the regeneration of Radcliffe and it was agreed that a People and Community Plan for Radcliffe would be developed. This plan will form part of the SRF to take the opportunities that will be created by the economic and physical regeneration, including health and wellbeing, culture, education, skills and high quality jobs. The plan will be brought to a meeting of the Cabinet for approval.
- 2.6 The Council has established a comprehensive and strong governance structure to ensure that a wide cross section of Radcliffe stakeholders continue to inform the planning and delivery of key interventions. Under this structure, a Radcliffe Regeneration Advisory Group has been established, providing a forum for Radcliffe Ward Councillors and representatives of key business and community groups to provide feedback and recommendations. The Advisory Group reports to the Radcliffe Regeneration Delivery Board, chaired by Sir Howard Bernstein and includes the Leader of the Council and wider representation from the MP for Bury South, senior officers and sub-regional partners including Transport for Greater Manchester and the GMCA. Leadership is provided by the Radcliffe Cabinet Committee, which fosters cross party engagement and makes recommendations to Cabinet on all investment decisions relating to the SRF.

3. Flexi Hall, Bury Town Centre

3.1 The Levelling Up Fund (LUF) bid for the flexi hall proposes to deliver the following:-

- Market improvement works – to sustain and enhance the market including installation of a new roof, reconfiguration of existing spaces, access improvements and repairs and maintenance.
- Flexi hall - the creation of a high quality, flexible facility at a key gateway to enhance cultural, leisure and hospitality offer. The facilities will support a range of business and community organisations and will be actively managed as part of a co-ordinated town centre offer.
- Public realm – a new public realm environment will be created to link the Market and adjacent infrastructure including Bury Interchange, Bury College and other civic infrastructure.
- Supporting activities - a range of complementary measures to diversify market demographic, including events, business enterprise and resident support.

3.2 The proposals for the market and flexi hall were informed through the cross-party Bury Markets Task Force established in 2019, which engaged market traders and the Bury Market Traders Association and considered evidence from across the UK on successful approaches to regeneration. Cabinet, at its meeting on 14 May 2020, endorsed the work of the Markets Task Force and its proposals relating to the strategy for Bury market to ensure that it remains at the heart of the towns retain experience. The Task Force will continue to engage and consult on detailed design and plans.

3.3 The delivery timescales set out in 2.2 of this report are relevant to the flexi hall.

3.4 The Bury Town Centre Masterplan, which is subject to a separate report on this agenda, will help to support Bury's economic recovery from Covid-19 in the short term and provide the foundations for Bury town centre to maintain its vibrancy and its status as one of the strongest centres in Greater Manchester for years to come. The masterplan will have an important role to play in promoting the town centre in general and in attracting development and inward investment by highlighting the major opportunities that exist. The Market Flexi Hall project is acting as a first phase of town centre redevelopment to benefit the people and communities of the neighbourhoods surrounding Bury town centre. Its construction will help add momentum to the Bury Town Centre Masterplan.

3.5 The proposals will seek to enhance the integration of the market with other town centre assets, notably the public transport interchange. The City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement included a proposal for

major redevelopment of the multi-modal interchange in Bury to support Bury's town centre regeneration plans. This will be subject to a decision to be taken by the GMCA now the final funding allocation is known.

- 3.6 Governance arrangements to oversee the delivery of the flexi hall project will be developed and brought back to Cabinet for approval in the context of the Bury Town Centre Master Plan.

4. City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS)

- 4.1 The new City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) is an unprecedented investment in local transport networks and is a major driver for significant change. The Government has recently announced that Greater Manchester is to receive £1.09 billion of funding from the City Region Sustainable Transport Fund. This represents 90% of the bid submitted and is the highest settlement for a City Region.

- 4.2 The funding secured by Greater Manchester is for the five-year period 2022/2023 to 2026/2027 and will be invested in supporting the delivery of the vital transport infrastructure as laid out in TfGM's Five Year Transport Delivery Plan (2021-2026) (https://downloads.ctfassets.net/nv7y93idf4jq/5Y95swfmf42WVZozNA4fE/84092928376473c507ec000098b18c35/Delivery_Plan_2021-2026_Jan_2021_Final.pdf) and required to deliver the Bee Network, Greater Manchester's vision for a fully-integrated 'London-style' public transport network.

- 4.3 This funding will complement the major regeneration schemes in each of the town centres linked to the successful Levelling Up Fund bids. It will also support the emerging Bury and Ramsbottom Town Centre Masterplans which will be reported to Cabinet in December.

- 4.4 Bury put forward the following projects in the bid. The GMCA will make decisions on the allocation of CRSTS now the final allocation is known.

- Bury Interchange- Phase 1 (£45m) – with a further phase of circa £36m in phase 2).
- Bury Town Centre Transport Improvements (£5.9m).
- Radcliffe Transport Improvements (£11.7m).
- Ramsbottom Active Travel Improvements (£3m).
- Prestwich Travel Hub (£2m).
- Heap Bridge Improvements (£0.8m).
- Possible new Metrolink stop (£2m).

- 4.5 Bury is also set to share in GM wide measures, such as:

- Upgraded, dedicated high-quality bus routes between Wigan and Bolton, Bury and Rochdale, and also between Bury and Manchester, to improve bus reliability and attractiveness.
- Bus stop enhancements.

- The next stage of Metrolink/rail expansion, linking the northern conurbations of Oldham, Rochdale, Heywood and Bury.
- Highways structures and resurfacing maintenance.
- Deliver the walking and cycling component of the wider GM Bee Network vision of an integrated multi-modal transport network for the whole of the region. Once complete, this will cover 1,800 miles and be the longest, integrated, planned active travel network in the country connecting every neighbourhood of Greater Manchester.

4.6 Bury will require a transport strategy for the Borough, which will come back to the Cabinet for approval.

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

Access to monies from the Levelling Up Fund will support the delivery of projects in Radcliffe and Bury, within a timeframe that is strategically aligned to the implementation of priorities outlined in the Let's do It, Bury 2030 plan. The regeneration of Radcliffe and investment in Bury town centre supports delivery of the Let's Do It strategy and the five themes that underpin the plan.

Equality Impact and Considerations:

An Equality Impact Assessment has been conducted on Radcliffe and the Flexi Hall.

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

The interchange in Bury is being developed to be the first operationally carbon neutral interchange in GM.

We need to use every opportunity to ensure that the developments in Radcliffe and Bury on our land is carbon neutral and prioritises active travel.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
None arising specifically from this report.	

Legal Implications:

Future reports will set out the governance arrangements for the delivery of the levelling up projects. Any governance arrangements will align to government guidance and the Council's decision-making arrangements as set out in the constitution.

Financial Implications:

The two Levelling Up Fund awards represent £40m of additional funding to the Borough to support two key strategic regeneration projects, one in Radcliffe and one in Bury town Centre. Added to the Councils own funding from the capital programme these projects represent significant investment and will generate jobs during and after their construction. Funding for the Council element will come from a combination of capital receipts and borrowing.

It is not yet known which of the transport projects will be funded from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement over the next 5 years but the values based upon the funding received by Greater Manchester are expected to be substantial. Once the detail is known Cabinet will be updated further.

Background papers:

No background documents.

Glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
GMCA	Greater Manchester Combined Authority
MP	Member of Parliament
SRF	Strategic Regeneration Framework
GM	Greater Manchester
CRSTS	City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement