

Appendix 1

Project A – A45 Damson Parkway Junction Improvements

The A45 / Damson Parkway / Terminal Road junction is located on the A45. This is a heavily trafficked main arterial route connecting the M42 with Birmingham City Centre, Birmingham Airport and the National Exhibition Centre (NEC).

The planned growth of local businesses, including Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) and Birmingham Airport, make the A45 Damson Parkway a key junction. Congestion currently observed at the junction is a result of not only traditional highway peak demands but also influenced by the demand from shift patterns of local businesses.

There is a significant amount of strategic growth planned for this area and the junction will be required to facilitate an increased level of demand in the future.

The application follows on from the approval of £0.296m by WMCA as part of UKC Infrastructure SOC phase 1 for this project. This already submitted application for £0.980m will examine the design options to significantly increase capacity at the junction with the aim to ease current and future congestion and reduce journey times. The junction complements the WMCA and TfWM led Sprint bus route proposed for the A45.

Project B - Shirley Town Centre

One of the recommendations made to the Economic Development & Managed Growth Scrutiny Board on the 18 November 2018 was a refresh of the Shirley Economic Plan which relates to investment in the A34 Corridor.

In addition, the Council has secured £882,000 from WMCA as part of the UK Central Infrastructure Package to undertake detailed studies to improve capacity and reduce congestion along the A34 corridor and produce a business case for future capital investment in the corridor.

Due to the scale and complexity of this work, including the need to align with developing plans for the Hall Green to HS2 Interchange SPRINT route that uses the A34 corridor, it is currently anticipated that engagement relating to more detailed options will not take place until 2020/2021. There are also emerging approaches and proposals to invest in walking and cycling infrastructure, which include a focus on Shirley.

This application will support the alignment of the works already being undertaken and allow option appraisals and feasibility studies to be assessed in an integrated manner.

Project C – Small Habitats Grant (SHG)

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is widely available across the GBSLEP area but there has been a limited response to the calls for applications for the specific Priority Fund 6 that is associated with increasing biodiversity.

Feedback has highlighted both the minimum application value (£1 million) and the need for matched funds as barriers to applicants. As part of the approved application to MHCLG, Greening the Grey, a strand of the funding is a grants programme with a lower application value of between £0.02 to £0.2m. This approach allows a much greater number of eligible organisations in the GBSLEP area to access the funding,

To date, the Small Habitats Grant (SHG) programme has received six full applications to SMBC. They were submitted by the closing date of 17 December 2018 with a total value of £1.14m and requesting a total grant value of £0.42m.

The SHG will reopen for Expressions of Interest (EoI's) on 1st February 2019. To date, the pipeline of Expression of Interest totals £0.96m and requests further £0.50m of grant. These values are very close to the programme's funding limit with approximately 12 months of the grants programme still to run to its current end date of March 2020.

Submitting an application for further funding will enable the programme to run up to 2022 and increase its budget.

Project D – Chelmsley Wood Town Centre Redevelopment

As part of Solihull MBC's Strategic Outline Case, Phase 1, approved in October 2017, the development of a masterplan for CWTC was supported by the WMCA. In the context of future economic growth, CWTC is strategically located at the heart of the North Solihull regeneration area, sitting between Birmingham City Centre and the key employment sites around the HS2 interchange site and the NEC, and also on the planned Metro route. A key objective of the masterplan will be the maximisation of wider infrastructure investment for the benefit of this important Town Centre.

A key opportunity area at CWTC, which is common to each of the masterplan options identified thus far, is the north-west quadrant. This quadrant currently accommodates the Police Station, Jobcentre, BT exchange / former postal sorting office and former library site (already in Council ownership).

This quadrant will be critical to the implementation of any successful redevelopment scheme of the town centre and the realisation of wider regeneration objectives. A funding bid has already been submitted in connection with Phase 7 of the Local Government Associations One Public Estate agenda which is intended to enable work to be carried out to capture opportunities for collaborative working and the potential efficiencies of sharing accommodation with public sector partners. The ability to identify end users for a sustainable mixed use redevelopment of the area identified is critical to the delivery of a successful scheme. If new users can be attracted and existing users re-accommodated, this could bring economic growth to the Centre and free up other land for development outside of the centre which may be better suited for housing delivery.

MHCLG has launched a competitive £675m Future High Streets Fund to renew and reshape town centres and high streets that are facing significant challenge in a way that improves experience, drives growth and ensures future sustainability.. Only one application is allowed per local authority. An evaluation of potential locations against the key funding criteria has identified Chelmsley Wood Town Centre as the strongest candidate within the Borough. The Expression of Interest to MHCLG will complement the £3.49m secured through the WMCA, which is to develop the wider masterplan for the area and inform the development of an Outline Business Case for the redevelopment by March 2020 ensures future sustainability.