

<b>CABINET MEETING – 22 MARCH 2022</b>  <b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I</b>
<b>Title of Report:</b> Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) Holmeside Bus Rationalisation (Highway Improvement Scheme)
<b>Author(s):</b> Report of the Executive Director of City Development
<b>Purpose of Report:</b> The purpose of this report is to seek approval to progress the delivery of one of the City's TCF Funded schemes, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holmeside Bus Rationalisation (made up of enhancement works to introduce a new One-Way Gyratory System and Sunderland Station Public Realm work).</li> </ul>
<b>Description of Decision:</b> Cabinet is recommended to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Approve the Council entering into a funding agreement with the North East Joint Transport Committee in respect of the highway improvement project known as Holmeside Bus Rationalisation, on such terms to be approved the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Dynamic City Portfolio Holder and the Executive Director of Corporate Services.</li> <li>ii) Approve the funding arrangements for the estimated costs of £2.885m to implement the improvement works.</li> <li>iii) Subject to the completion of the relevant funding agreement with the North East Joint Transport committee, authorise the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Dynamic City Portfolio Holder and the Executive Director of Corporate Services, to take all necessary steps to procure the delivery and completion of the Holmeside Bus Rationalisation scheme, including the procurement and award of the construction contract, the submission of a planning application and the appointment of all other relevant consultants required to deliver the scheme.</li> </ul>
<b>Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? Yes</b>
<b>If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework</b>
<b>Suggested reason(s) for Decision:</b> Approval will enable the timely progression of the on-site delivery of the Holmeside Bus Rationalisation (Highway Improvement Scheme).

This will also support the City Plan objectives of becoming a dynamic and vibrant city with the improved highway infrastructure and driving regional economic growth, job creation and other regeneration benefits to the City to support business, retail for residents and visitors.

**Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:**

Not to progress with the funded TCF project. This option is not recommended as it may result in external funding for these measures being lost to the Council.

**Impacts analysed;**

Equality ☐ Y Privacy ☐ X Sustainability ☐ Y Crime and Disorder ☐ Y

**Is the Decision consistent with the Council's Co-Operative Values? Yes**

**Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution? Yes**

**Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions? Yes**

**TRANSFORMING CITIES FUND (TCF) HOLMESIDE BUS RATIONALISATION  
(HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME)**

**Report of: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY DEVELOPMENT**

**1. Purpose of Report:**

1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to progress the delivery of one of the City's TCF Funded schemes, namely:

- Holmeside Bus Rationalisation (made up of enhancement works to introduce a new One-Way Gyratory System and Sunderland Station Public Realm work).

**2. Description of Decision (Recommendations)**

2.1. Cabinet is recommended to:

- i. Approve the Council entering into a funding agreement with the North East Joint Transport Committee in respect of the highway improvement project known as Holmeside Bus Rationalisation on such terms to be approved the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Dynamic City Portfolio Holder and the Executive Director of Corporate Services
- ii. Approve the funding arrangements for the estimated costs of £2.885m to implement the improvement works.
- iii. Subject to the completion of the relevant funding agreement with the North East Joint Transport committee, authorise the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Dynamic City Portfolio Holder and the Executive Director of Corporate Services, to take all necessary steps to procure the delivery and completion of the Holmeside Bus Rationalisation scheme, including the procurement and award of the construction contract, the submission of a planning application and the appointment of all other relevant consultant required to deliver the scheme.

**3. Introduction / Background**

- 3.1. As part of the Capital Programme 2021/2022 to 2024/2025 approved by Council in March 2021, £21.613m of funding from TCF Tranche 2 was included, with £0.880m of this allocated for the Holmeside Bus Rationalisation (Highway Improvement Scheme). The gross approved budget for this project is currently £1.135m including the Council's required £0.255m match funding contribution.
- 3.2. The initial approved £1.135m Holmeside bus rationalisation and priority measures forms part of the Regional TCF application to the DfT. The scheme is seen by the Council as a catalyst for change within the city centre as detailed in the developing Transportation Movement Plan for the city.

- 3.3. The scheme is intended to help reduce congestion, provide bus priority, help ensure journey time reliability for buses and taxis, enhance the pedestrian environment (particularly bus passengers) and provide enhanced road safety measures. The original client briefs main objectives where:
- Road narrowing at Crowtree Road junction providing a larger crossing with reduced carriageway crossing distances and shuttle working for vehicles.
  - Introduction of a camera enforced “bus gate” at this crossing, or near to, to prohibit other vehicles being able to use Holmeside as a through route.
  - Formalised loading and parking along Holmeside.
  - Intelligent bus stop facilities for real time passenger information.
  - Introduction of Air Quality Monitoring Equipment
  - Traffic signals and signing amendments throughout link from A1018 to Holmeside.
- 3.4. The TCF builds on the Government’s Industrial Strategy and provides city-regions with the opportunity to access significant funds for strategic transport and infrastructure projects. Development work has continued the Council’s TCF schemes in order to ensure that these monies are spent by the required date of 31 March 2023.

#### **4. Current Position**

- 4.1. Additional enhancement works (set out below) to run alongside the original £1.135m TCF Funded Holmeside project were put forward to further improve highway infrastructure to minimise disruption to the City centre.
- 4.2. With the acquisition of the old Peacock’s Site on Blandford Street this presented the opportunity to rationalise more vehicle movements through the City by creating a one-way gyratory system within the city centre. This additional project is to compliment the original TCF scheme with additional enhancements and is funded via the Integrated Transport Block (ITB) annual contribution.
- 4.3. The South Sunderland Station Public Realm works which are included within the approved capital programme is under development.
- 4.4. Incorporation of the two enhancement projects will run alongside the initial TCF Funded project.
- 4.5. The Council have undertaken pre-engagement with local Ward Members, Key Stakeholders, Business Owners, and members of the public. During this engagement stage no major concerns were raised. Some minor design changes will be made following the comments received. Overall, the scheme to introduce a one-way westbound traffic movement along with a gyratory system to rationalise vehicle movements around the City has positive support. The project still requires a full statutory consultation process for the proposed Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO’s), which is due to commence in Spring 2022.
- 4.6. A planning application was submitted in January 2022 for the proposed new 25m link road to connect Maritime Terrace and Brougham Street (old Peacock’s site), to facilitate the new one-way gyratory system.

- 4.7. Due to the funding and construction deadline of 31 March 2023 associated with TCF, there is a requirement to appoint an external main contractor with capacity to immediately deliver the proposed works. The Council's internal design teams (Highway Project & Landscape) are developing the tender packages ready to be issued during April 2022. It is anticipated that the contract will be tendered using the NEPO Civil Engineering and Infrastructure Works Framework.
- 4.8. This proposal is to deliver a wider project with a cost estimate of £2.885m, bringing together various projects and funding from within the current approved Capital Programme into one project, as per the following table:

Current Project	Approved Funding £m			
	TCF Grant	LTP Grant	Council Borrowing	Total
Holmeside Bus Rationalisation and Priority Measures	0.880	0.000	0.255	<b>1.135</b>
Railway Station Public Realm	0.000	0.000	0.750	<b>0.750</b>
Integrated Transport	0.000	1.000	0.000	<b>1.000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.880</b>	<b>1.000</b>	<b>1.005</b>	<b>2.885</b>

## 5. Reasons for the Decision

- 5.1. Approval will enable the timely progression of the delivery of the Holmeside Bus Rationalisation (Highway Improvement Scheme).
- 5.2. This will also support the City Plan objectives of becoming a dynamic and vibrant city with the improved highway infrastructure and driving regional economic growth, job creation and other regeneration benefits to the City to support business, retail for residents and visitors.

## 6. Alternative Option

- 6.1. Not to progress with the TCF Project. This option is not recommended as it may result in external funding for these measures being lost to the Council.

## 7. Impact Analysis

- (a) Equalities** – an accessibility review will be undertaken as part of the detailed design. The Project designs will be in accordance with all relevant regulations and Equality Act compliant.
- (b) Sustainability** – a sustainability review will be undertaken as part of the detailed design; the project will seek to utilise sustainable materials and processes were reasonably practicable
- (c) Reduction of Crime and Disorder – Community Cohesion / Social Inclusion** – Reduction in vandalism and social inclusion will be created by the introduction of urban streetscape on the highway infrastructure.

## 8. Other Relevant Considerations / Consultations

- i. **Financial Implications** – The costs and funding for the individual scheme are included within the approved capital programme. This extended project proposal consolidates the funding and projects from the current approved capital programme as set out in paragraph 4.4.
- ii. **Risk Analysis** – A risk register including mitigation actions and cost analysis will be developed throughout the life cycle of the project. Any cost overrun within the project will be controlled and covered within the approval Capital Programme, however this is sought to be minimised wherever possible by entering a lump sum price construction contract for delivery.
- iii. **Legal Implications** – The Assistant Director of Law and Governance has been consulted on this matter and her comments have been incorporated into this report. Where required, Council officers will undertake a full statutory consultation process as part of the Traffic Regulation Order Process.
- iv. **Health & Safety Considerations** – The works are to be procured using contractors and consultants experienced in works of this nature. The Construction Design and Management (CDM) Regulations 2015 apply, and the successful Main Contractor will be appointed as Contractor under these regulations.
- v. **The Public / External Bodies** – Where planning approval and Traffic Regulation Orders are required, Council officers will carry out full consultation in line with the statutory procedure.
- vi. **Procurement** – The Council will procure the necessary construction contract and professional appointments required for the delivery of the scheme in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council's Procurement Procedure Rules.

### Appendices Attached

#### *Sketch Design Master Plan*

- SU04-SCC-GEN-Z0-SK-C-SK\_038-S1\_REV\_P01.01\_HOLMESIDE\_BROUGHAM\_ST\_GYR\_MASTERPLAN

#### *Concept Visual Images*

- Sunderland - CC Camera\_19 – Photo
- Sunderland - CC Camera\_3 – Photo

Digital PDF copies are available to view online on the Council's CMIS system at [TCF2HolmesideProject – online display only](#)