

MEETING OF THE BERKSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT BODY (BLTB) – THURSDAY 13 JULY 2023

CONTACT OFFICER: Stephen Brown, Chief Executive, Slough Borough Council

Item 6: Thames Valley Berkshire Capital Programme Update

Purpose of Report

1. To report on the progress of the [Thames Valley Berkshire Local Growth Dealⁱ](#), as amended by Growth Deal 2 ([£10.2 million further support to Thames Valley Berkshireⁱⁱ](#)) and Growth Deal 3 ([Factsheet GD3ⁱⁱⁱ](#)) with particular reference to the schemes included in the Transport Packages of the [Strategic Economic Plan^{iv}](#); and on the progress of schemes funded by the Business Rates Retention Pilots (BRRP) of 2018/19 and 2019/20. This report also reports on the transport element of the [Getting Building Fund](#) (GBF) released in September 2020.

Recommendations

2. That you note the progress made on the schemes previously given programme entry status, as set out in the accompanying summary report.

Background

3. The headline figure for transport scheme grants under the three Local Growth Deals is £135.98m. This includes £24m of “DfT retained” allocation relating to the Wokingham Distributor Roads.
4. A further £25m has been released through BRRP1 (2018/19) and £11m from BRRP2 (2019/20).
5. Berkshire LEP has received £7.5m through the GBF, of which £2,093,000 has been allocated to two transport projects. GBF investment decisions were taken by the LEP through the Place Making Board (PMB) in consultation with senior officers from the six local authorities. The transport investments are reported to BLTB for information whilst the remaining GBF projects are reported to PMB. All projects are reported to the LEP Board.
6. £1.1m of BRRP has been allocated to two digital projects, including the TVB Smart City Cluster scheme, which was previously reported to BLTB. Digital projects are now governed by the Digital Infrastructure Group and not reported here.

Other Implications

Risk Management

7. The delegation of programme management responsibilities to the LEP/BLTB brings risks. The well-established scrutiny of the transport projects given by both BST(O)F and BLTB meetings is designed to mitigate that risk.
8. There will be an element of risk for scheme promoters who invest in developing their schemes to full business case stage in accordance with the approved [Assurance Framework^v](#). However, there is also risk involved in not developing the schemes; that risk is that any reluctance to bring the schemes forward will result in any final approval being delayed or refused.

9. The risks associated with each scheme are monitored locally. Appendix A shows the current risk rating of each of the live schemes, along with a comment relating to the status.
10. There is currently one transport project rated with a red risk score:
- 10.1. Scheme 2.38 - Theale Station Upgrade: Work is underway for the DfT Access for All funded footbridge. The bridge span is due to be installed this month, with the lift and footbridge coming into service in January 2024. A design & build contract for the LGF car park and forecourt is being procured at present and intrusive surveys have also been commissions to reduce risk in the construction phase. Design work should start in early 2024, with construction due to start in July 24 with completion expected by December 2024. GWR have stated that they expect to only be in a position to spend £600,000 LGF by March 2024, with the remaining £3.18m LGF to be spent by September 2024. The LEP have previously advised GWR that this does not fit with the current requirement from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to spend all of the LGF by March 2024. However despite asking GWR to investigate if it is possible to prioritise the LGF over other funds, this has not proven possible and so the funding remains at risk. The LEP has sought discussion with the DLUHC contact ahead of the BLTB meeting for clarity on the status regarding the remaining LGF given the requirement for these funds to be spent by end March 2024 (see paragraph 16 below). A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

Financial

11. Berkshire LEP has been granted freedoms and flexibilities by Government in managing Local Growth Funds. This means that RBWM, as the LEP’s Accountable Body, received an annual allocation and it was the LEP’s responsibility, via BLTB, to manage the award of LGF to individual schemes.

Table 1: Available Finance for Transport Schemes in TVB Local Growth Deal, BRRP and GBF

£m	2015/16 – 2022/23
Growth Deal 1 “DfT Major Schemes”	24.00
Local Growth Deal	111.98
BRRP 2018/19 and 2019/20*	34.88
Getting Building Fund	2.10
Grand Total	172.96

*Digital infrastructure projects have been removed from the totals above as these are governed by the Digital Infrastructure Group.

12. The profile and status of the available money in each year is as follows:

Table 2: Local Growth Deal, BRRP and GBF Financial Allocations for Transport Schemes by Financial Year

£m	2015 /16	2016 /17	2017 /18	2018 /19	2019 /20	2020 /21	2021 /22	2022 /23	2023 /24	Total
Combined Growth Deal 1, 2, 3 & LTB Allocation	14.74	16.55	15.06	8.81	12.44	44.38	-	-	-	111.98
Growth Deal 1 (DfT Major Schemes)	-	-	-	0.87	22.13	1.0	-	-	-	24.0
Local Growth Deal Total	14.74	16.55	15.06	9.68	34.57	45.38	-	-	-	135.98
Business Rates Retention Pilot	-	-	-	11.45	9.31	1.07	2.60	2.97	7.48	34.88
Getting Building Fund	-	-	-	-	-	0.60	1.50	-	-	2.10
Grand Total	14.74	16.55	15.06	21.13	43.88	47.05	4.10	2.97	7.48	172.96

13. The breakdown of types of projects with allocated LGF, BRRP and GBF monies is shown in Appendix B.

14. The LGF programme closed on 31 March 2021. Where a project did not complete by this date and there was still outstanding expenditure, the LEP was allowed to use freedoms and flexibilities to temporarily allocate the funding to an alternative capital project that took place within the local authority during 2020/21. Once the original projects complete, the LGF will be reallocated back to the original project. This process is known as a capital swap and is an accounting process to ensure that capital grants are defrayed within the correct financial period. Delivery partners confirmed that by the end of March 2021, expenditure was at roughly £79m, against the £112m paid over the LGF period, with c.£33m reallocated as a capital swap.

15. The following table shows the outstanding amount of capital swap, as reported by transport officers for each local authority:

Table 3: LGF Capital Swap by Local Authority

Local Authority	Amount
West Berkshire Council	£6.5m
Slough Borough Council	£2.6m
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	£1.4m
Wokingham Borough Council	-
Reading Borough Council	£0.5m
Bracknell Forest Council	-
Total	£10.99m

16. Government expectations are that LEPs should complete their capital programme of investments by the end of financial year 2023/24. Berkshire LEP will write to the scheme promoters with

outstanding projects to outline that this is an immovable deadline, and that funding is at risk and may be recovered if projects are delayed beyond March 2024.

Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

17. The [Assurance Framework](#)^{vi} referred to above identifies the steps that scheme promoters should take in order to secure financial approval from the LTB. There are, in effect, two layers of scheme approval. The first, and primary layer rests with the scheme promoter (all the schemes referred to in this report are being promoted by Local Authorities). In order to implement the schemes in question, each promoter will need to satisfy themselves that all the legal implications have been considered and appropriately resolved. The secondary layer of approval, given by the LTB, is concerned with the release of funds against the detailed business case. The arrangements for publication of plans via the LEP and promoters' websites, the arrangements for independent assessment and the consideration of detailed scheme reports are appropriate steps to ensure that any significant Human Rights Act or other legal implications are properly identified and considered.

Monitoring and Evaluation

18. The Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for the Thames Valley Berkshire Growth Deal has now been agreed with government. In addition to the need for transport scheme promoters to collect and publish monitoring and evaluation reports that comply with DfT guidance for capital schemes, there will be requirements to cooperate with the overall monitoring and evaluation plan for the Growth Deal.

19. The difference between the two processes is that one concentrates on the transport impacts and the other on the economic impacts. The basic information required from each scheme promoter is set out in the scheme proformas. This requirement is less onerous for schemes under £5m Growth Deal contribution and runs to much more detail for the larger schemes.

20. For most schemes there will be little or no additional Growth Deal monitoring burden beyond that already signalled. Extra effort may be required to comply with the standard set out in the Monitoring and Evaluation plan which is "accurate, timely, verified and quality assured monitoring data." For schemes mentioned by name in the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (see list below) there will be a separate discussion about the duties on the scheme promoter:

2.01 Newbury: King's Road Link Road

2.04 Wokingham: Distributor Roads Programme

2.06 Reading: Green Park Railway Station

2.08 Slough: Rapid Transit Phase 1

APPENDIX A Summary of all Transport Projects (funding in £m)

LEP Capital Infrastructure Programme Summary

03/07/2023

Ref.	Scheme Name	Growth Deal	RAG	Notes	*LTB Funding Approval	Start on Site	Completi on date	2015/ 16	2016/ 17	2017/ 18	2018/ 19	2019/ 20	2020/ 21		Total
LOCAL GROWTH FUND															
2.01	Newbury: King's Road Link Road	GD1	AG	Work back on site.	Mar-15	Oct-16	Due Aug 23	0.000	1.335	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		2.335
2.02	Bracknell: Warfield Link Road	GD1	C	1-yr impact report published Mar 20	Jan-15	Feb-15	Apr 17; open Oct 18	3.500	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		3.500
2.03	Newbury: London Road Industrial Estate	GD1	C	1-yr impact report published Jul 18 Delays to linked housing	Mar-15	Feb-16	Mar-17	0.500	1.400	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		1.900
2.04	Wokingham Roads -Arborfield Cross Relief Rd	DfT major	C	1-yr impact report due March 2023	Jul & Aug 19 via DfT	Aug 19 enabling	Nov-20	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.874	22.126	1.000		24.000
2.05	Newbury: Sandford Park	GD2	C	Final works underway	Jul-16	Aug-18	Dec-21	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.000	0.000	0.000		2.000
2.06	Reading Green Park Railway Station	GD1	C	Station opened to public in June 23	Nov 14 & Jul 19	Mar-18	Dec-22	0.000	0.000	4.575	0.000	4.575	0.550		9.700
2.07	Bracknell: Coral Reef Roundabout	GD1	C	1-yr impact report published Nov 17, 5 yr report due Nov 2023	Jan-15	Apr-15	Apr-16	2.100	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		2.100
2.08	Slough Rapid Transit Phase 1	GD1	C	1-yr impact report published Mar 20	Jul-14	Dec-15	Dec 17; buses Mar 19	3.100	2.500	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		5.600
2.09.01	Sustainable Transport: NCN 422	GD1	C	1-yr impact report due Nov 2022	Nov-15	Jan-17	Dec-20	0.000	2.100	1.500	0.200	0.400	0.000		4.200
2.09.02	Sustainable Transport: A4 Cycle (with Bucks)	GD1	C	1-yr impact report published July 2021	Nov-15	Feb-17	Sep-18	0.000	0.483	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		0.483
2.10	Slough A332 Improvements	GD1	C	1-yr impact report published Nov 2021	Nov-14	Dec-15	Sep-19	1.267	1.433	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		2.700

2.11	South Reading Mass Rapid Transit Phase 1	GD1	C	1-yr impact report published Nov 21	Nov-15	Aug-16	Jan-00	0.000	2.970	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.970
2.12	South Reading Mass Rapid Transit Phase 2						Jan-00	0.000	0.000	1.530	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.530
2.13	Wokingham Thames Valley Park and Ride	GD1	C	1-yr impact report published Nov 2022	Jul-17	Feb-18	Nov-20	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.000	0.900	0.000	2.900	
2.14	East Reading MRT Phase 1	GD1	Project withdrawn												
2.25	East Reading MRT Phase 2	GD3	Project withdrawn												
2.15	Bracknell: Martins Heron	GD1	C	1-yr impact report due published Nov 2021	Apr-17	Apr-17	Apr-19	0.000	0.200	2.700	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.900	
2.16	Maidenhead: Station Access	GD 1	C		Nov-17	Jan-19	Oct-21	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.690	1.666	1.394	3.750	
2.17	Slough: A355 route	GD 1	C	1-yr impact report published Jul 18	Nov-14	Dec-15	Feb-17	2.275	2.125	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4.400	
2.18	Not used														
2.19	Bracknell: Town Centre Regeneration Infrastructure	GD 2	C	1-yr impact report published Mar 19	Nov-15	Apr-15	Sep-17	2.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.000	
2.20	Not used														
2.21	Slough: Langley Station Access	GD 2	C	1-yr impact report published Nov 2021	Nov-16	Mar-18	Feb-20	0.000	0.000	1.500	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.500	
2.22	Slough: Burnham Station Access	GD 2	C	1-yr impact report published Jul 20	Mar-16	Jan-17	Apr-19	0.000	2.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.000	
2.23	Reading: South Reading MRT Ph 3-4	GD 3	C	1-yr impact report due Nov 2023	Nov-17	Mar-18	Due Mar 22	0.000	0.000	2.250	0.090	0.000	0.000	2.340	
2.24	Newbury: Railway Station	GD 3	G	Final works underway to complete business units	Cond Jul 18, lifted Feb 19	Jan-19	Due July 23	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.630	0.000	3.061	6.691	
2.25	East Reading MRT Phase 2 - See 2.14 above														
2.26	Wokingham: Winnersh Relief Road Phase 2 - See BRRP below														
2.27	Maidenhead Town Centre: Missing Links	GD 3	C	1-yr impact report due March 2024	Cond Nov 18, lifted Sep 19	Nov-20	Dec-22	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.242	2.242	
2.28	Bracknell: A3095 Corridor	GD 3	C	1-yr impact report published Nov 2022	Jul-18	Oct 18 enabling	Nov-21	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.200	1.800	3.519	5.519	

2.29	Wokingham: Winnersh Triangle Park & Ride	GD 3 resrv.	A	Work Complete	Cond Mar 19, lifted May 19	Apr-21	Mar-23	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4.240		4.240
2.31	Slough: Stoke Road Area Regeneration	GD 3 resrv.	A	Railway forecourt complete. Traffic signals at TVU junction to complete Aug 23, Mill Street Junction due Jan 24	Jul-19	Aug 19 enabling	Due Jan 24	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.000	6.650		7.650
2.32	Maidenhead: Housing Sites Enabling Work Ph. 1	GD 3 resrv.	A	St Cloud Way Crossing to start late summer. M'head Town Centre works in consultation, phased install to follow	Cond Jan 19, lifted Jul 20	Nov-20	Due Dec 23	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4.271		4.271
2.33	GWR: Maidenhead to Marlow Branch Line Upgrade	GD 3 resrv.	Project withdrawn												
2.34	Slough MRT Phase 2 – see BRRP below														
2.35	Reading: Reading West Station Upgrade	GD 3 resrv.	AG	Work underway on station building. Tilehurst Road entrance re-opened.	Nov-19	Feb-21	Due July 23	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.100		3.100
2.36	Wokingham: Coppid Beech Park and Ride	GD 3 resrv.	C	1-yr impact report published Jul 18 Delays to linked housing	Mar-20	Feb-21	Mar-22	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.400		2.400
2.37	Bracknell: A322 A329 Corridor Improvements	GD 3 resrv.	C	Work back on site.	Nov-19, amended Jun 20	Nov-20	Nov-21	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.400		0.400
2.38	Theale Station Upgrade	GD 3 resrv.	R	Work progressing well on footbridge. Procurement underway for LEP funded car park / forecourt. Waiting confirmation of LGF spend by March 24	Cond June 20, lifted Dec 20	Mar-21	Due Dec 24	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4.000		4.000
2.39	Wokingham: Coppid Beech northbound on-slip widening	GD 3 resrv.	Project withdrawn												

2.40	Windsor: Town Centre Package	GD 3 resrv.	AG	Significant progress on Castle Hill with planned break over summer.	Jul-20	Mar-21	Due Jan 24	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.563		1.563	
2.41 Not used																
2.42 South Wokingham Distributor Road – Eastern Gateway – see BRRP below																
2.43	Wokingham: Barkham Bridge	GD 3 resrv.	C	1-yr impact report published July 2022	Nov-19	Nov-19	Feb-21	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.100	2.136		4.236	
2.44	Reading Buses: Completing the Connection	GD 3 resrv.	C	1-yr impact report published July 2022	Cond July 20 lifted Nov 20	Nov-20	Mar-21	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.541		1.541	
2.45	Slough Langley High Street phase 1	GD 3 resrv.	C	1-yr impact report due March 2024	Cond June 20 lifted Oct 20	Feb-21	Dec-22	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.324		1.324	
2.46	Slough Langley High Street phase 2	GD 3 resrv.	C	1-yr impact report due March 2024	Cond Jul 20 lifted Oct 20	Feb-21	Dec-22	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.033		1.033	
2.47	Bracknell Town Centre The Deck	GD 3 resrv.	C	1-yr impact report published Nov 2022	Cond Nov 20, lifted Dec 20	Feb-21	Aug-21	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.956		0.956	
N/a	Independent assessment costs	GD 3 resrv.	N/a					0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.004		0.004	
								14.742	16.546	15.055	9.684	34.567	45.384		135.978	
															0.000	
	BUSINESS RATES RETENTION PILOT															
Ref.	Scheme Name	Growth Deal	RAG	Notes	LTB Funding Approval	Start on Site	Completion date				2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total
	Capital Projects															
2.23	Reading: South Reading MRT Ph 3-4	BRRP	C	n/a		Nov-17	Mar-18	Due Mar 22			7.808	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	7.808

2.26	Wokingham: Winnersh Relief Road Phase 2	BRRP	C	1-yr impact report published July 2022	Conds. Nov 18, lifted Feb 19	Jan-19	May-21			3.000	3.260	0.000	0.000	0.000	6.260
2.32	Maidenhead: Housing Sites Enabling Work Ph. 1	BRRP	A	St Cloud Way Crossing to start late summer. M'head Town Centre works in consultation, phased install to follow	Conds. Jan 19, lifted Jul 20	Nov-20	Due Dec 23			0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.010	1.010
2.34	Slough MRT Phase 2	BRRP	A	Cycle route work to start shortly	Jan-19	Aug-19	Due Mar 24			0.000	1.000	1.000	2.600	4.003	8.603
2.42	South Wokingham Distributor Road – Eastern Gateway	BRRP	C		Nov-19	Oct-19	Mar-22			0.000	5.000	0.000	0.000		5.000
	New BRRP Capital Projects													2023/24	Total
2.48	M3-M4 Smarter Corridors	BRRP	G		Mar-23	Sep-23	Due Dec 23							0.200	0.200
2.49	The Avenue Multi-Storey Car Park	BRRP	G		Mar-23	Sep-23	Due Feb 24							0.600	0.600
2.50	Toutley Depot Refurbishment	BRRP	G		Mar-23	Sep-23	Due Mar 24							0.800	0.800
2.51	Newbury - London Road Industrial Estate Regeneration	BRRP	G		Mar-23	Sep-23	Due Mar 24							0.375	0.375
2.52	Civic Centre Decarbonisation	BRRP	G		Mar-23	Sep-23	Due Mar 24							0.825	0.825
2.53	Parlaunt Road Traffic Signals and Highways Improvement	BRRP	G		Mar-23	Sep-23	Due Mar 24							0.750	0.750
2.54	Windsor Welcome	BRRP	G		Mar-23	Sep-23	Due Mar 24							0.785	0.785
2.55	Newbury - Newbury Wharf	BRRP	G		Mar-23	Sep-23	Due Mar 24							0.375	0.375
					Tot. BRRP Spend – Capital					10.808	9.260	1.000	2.600	9.723	33.391

Revenue Projects																
N/a	BLIS development	BRRP	N/a	Work completed							0.044	0.046	0.000	0.000	0.090	
N/a	Business Case Preparation	BRRP	N/a	6 proposals approved							0.600	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.600	
N/a	Forward Plans Team	BRRP	N/a	Proposals being developed	Mar-20	Oct-20	Mar-21				0.000	0.000	0.065	0.685	0.684	0.750
N/a	Independent assessment of 1 & 5 year evaluations	BRRP	N/a	Transferred from LGF by adjusting LGF / BRRP proportions for project 2.32	Due Jul 21	Due Nov 21	Due Mar 27				0.000	0.000	0.000	0.041	0.044	0.041
					Tot. BRRP Spend – Revenue						0.644	0.046	0.065	0.726	0.728	1.481
					Tot. BRRP Spend						11.452	9.306	1.065	3.326	0.004	34.872
					Unallocated BRRP											0.000
	GETTING BUILDING FUND												2020/21	2021/22		Total
GBF1	Slough Langley High Street phase 3	GBF	C	n/a	Cond. Nov 20; lifted May 21	Oct-21	Dec-22						0.593	1.050		1.643
GBF1 5	Bracknell A322 A329 Corridor Improvements	GBF	C			Jul-21	Nov-21	Mar-22					0.000	0.450		0.450
					Total GBF Spend								0.593	1.500		2.093

**Funding has on occasions been granted with conditions, which have subsequently been lifted*

Appendix B: Breakdown of schemes by type by funding allocated

£m	LGF	BRRP	GBF	Total
MRT / P&R projects	23.5	16.4	-	44.6
Railway projects	30.7	-	-	30.7
Highway improvements	24.6	-	2.1	26.7
Unlocking direct housing	21.7	12.3	-	33.9
Regeneration	4.5			4.5
Active travel	6.9			6.9
Revenue projects	0.004	1.5	-	1.5
DfT retained	24.0	-	-	24.0
Unallocated	0	4.7	0	4.7
Total funding	135.8	34.9	2.1	172.9

ⁱhttps://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/327587/35_Thames_Valley_Berkshire_Growth_Deal.pdf

ⁱⁱhttps://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/399438/Thames_Valley_Berkshire_Factsheet.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱhttps://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/589268/170202_Thames_Valley_Berkshire_LEP_GD_factsheet.pdf

^{iv}<http://www.thamesvalleyberkshire.co.uk/documents?page=1&folder=192&view=files>

^v<http://www.thamesvalleyberkshire.co.uk/berkshire-strategic-transport-forum>

^{vi}<http://www.thamesvalleyberkshire.co.uk/berkshire-strategic-transport-forum>