

Delegated Decision

19 November 2024

Grant Funding Agreement - Bus Service Improvement Plan Safe and Accessible Bus Stations Sub-Programme



Report of Regeneration, Economy and Growth

Amy Harhoff, Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth

Electoral division(s) affected:

The electoral divisions detailed below are affected:

- (a) Elvet and Gilesgate
- (b) Consett North
- (c) Peterlee East
- (d) Tanfield

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To approve the formal sealing of grant funding agreements from the North East Combined Authority (NECA) relating to the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Safe and Accessible Bus Stations Sub-Programme. The grant is for scheme design and business case development.

Executive summary

- 2 The Department for Transport (DfT) awarded funding to NECA from the second tranche of the BSIP, of which £374,077.92 has been allocated towards scheme design and business case development across four schemes:
 - (a) Durham Milburngate Transport Hub £90,549.80
 - (b) Consett Bus Station £102,164.12
 - (c) Peterlee Bus Station £86,983.00

(d) Stanley Bus Station £94,381.00

Recommendation

- 3 The recommendation is to note and authorise the grant funding agreements for sealing.

Background

- 4 The BSIP outlines region-wide ambitions to make buses more attractive by making them an affordable and practical alternative to using private cars for more people and helping existing bus users to travel more frequently. The ambitious plan aims to return bus ridership – currently 25% lower than before the pandemic – to pre-Covid levels by the end of the next financial year and to grow by 10% each year thereafter. This would provide a major economic boost to the region, reduce road congestion, and contribute towards climate change targets.
- 5 In April 2022, it was announced that the North East was indicatively awarded £163.5million of BSIP funding, for various measures, including bus infrastructure.
- 6 The BSIP funding is £374,077.92 for the development work for accessibility and safety upgrades to bus infrastructure at Durham Milburngate transport hub, Consett, Stanley and Peterlee bus stations.
- 7 Subject to a separate grant funding agreement following the completion of development work further BSIP funding for construction works is expected to be made available.
- 8 Construction of these schemes is expected to be undertaken during the financial year 2025/26.
- 9 The total targeted funding proposal from BSIP funding is £12million for bus priority infrastructure and for infrastructure at bus stops and bus stations to improve accessibility and safety. Subject to separate grant funding agreements the scheme proposals include:
- (a) A167 Durham Road corridor, bus priority infrastructure at Coundongate Roundabout, Spennymoor and Croxdale. £47,091 development monies awarded from tranche 1 with a further £733,571 targeted for construction.
 - (b) Bus Stop Infrastructure targeted funding £550,000.
 - (c) Bus Station infrastructure at Consett, Peterlee, Stanley and Milburngate transport hub targeted funding £3.87million.
 - (d) A177 Shincliffe targeted funding £2.8million.
 - (e) Pocket Park & Ride at Bowburn, Meadowfield, Ushaw Moor and Dragonville targeted funding £1.078million.

(f) A690 corridor signal controlled targeted funding £3million.

- 10 BSIP funding will equate to 100% of the budget, there is no match funding. Every scheme will have to be value engineered in the event of potential overspend. There is a risk allowance within every targeted project budget in line with WebTAG guidance.
- 11 The split of risk between the Client and Contractor will be shown in the risk register which will be produced at the assurance stage for programme level business case.

Background papers

- Grant Funding Agreements: Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Safe and Accessible Bus Stations Sub-Programme:
 - Durham Milburngate
 - Consett Bus Station
 - Peterlee Bus Station
 - Stanley Bus Station

Other useful documents

- None

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Grant Funding Agreement in place to allow scheme design and business case development costs to be drawn down. Grant funding agreements attached, appendix 2.

Finance

£374,077.92 Capital grant funding awarded for scheme development.

Consultation and Engagement

Consultation, including traffic regulation orders where required, will be undertaken with all related stakeholders.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Design to increase the attractiveness of bus journeys, improve accessibility and safety at bus stations. Designs will be to inclusive design standards.

Climate Change

Improving accessibility and safety at bus stations will enhance the attractiveness of public transport, supporting modal shift away from private car journeys.

Human Rights

None.

Crime and Disorder

Improving safety at bus stations to address issues of antisocial behaviour to improve user safety and experience.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

The risk is the delivery of the scheme as intended and within timescales.

Procurement

The proposals are likely to be delivered internally by the council's building and facilities management team with a potential requirement for procurement of construction materials and specialist services.