

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	City Growth and Resources
DATE	03 February 2022
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Bus Partnership Fund Update
REPORT NUMBER	COM/22/018
DIRECTOR	Gale Beattie
CHIEF OFFICER	David Dunne
REPORT AUTHOR	Nicola Laird
TERMS OF REFERENCE	3.2

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee on the progress of the delivery of the Bus Partnership Fund grant projects.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Note the progress of the delivery of this grant;
- 2.2 Note that officers will continue to work with partners to deliver the projects in accordance with the grant conditions; and
- 2.3 Instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning, given the long term nature of the project, to bring back update reports on a quarterly basis.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Reference is made to the meeting of the City Growth and Resources Committee of 10 November 2021 wherein the Committee considered the report 'Bus Partnership Fund Bid – COM/21/254' and resolved:
- (i) Note the progress of the delivery of this grant;
 - (ii) Instruct the Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning and Chief Officer – Capital to continue to work with partners to deliver the projects in accordance with the grant conditions; and
 - (iii) Instruct the Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning to prepare reports on the progress of the delivery of this grant and that they be submitted to the Committee for consideration.

3.2 The below table provides an update on the status of all Bus Partnership Fund projects as of November 2021.

Project	Current Stage	Progress
BPF004-1 A90 Ellon to Garthdee	Completion of STAG (Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance) appraisal and identification of preferred options	Consultation completed and final appraisal report along with supporting documents submitted to Transport Scotland. Bus Partnership Fund deliverables Gateway Review Workshop took place in December 2021. Study outcomes and recommendations for next steps are included in a separate report for this project on the Agenda.
BPF004-3 A96 Inverurie to Aberdeen	Completion of STAG appraisal and identification of preferred options	Options appraisal works are currently ongoing. Next steps will be to conclude options appraisal works, start the Quantified Impacts and Cost Benefit Analysis, as well as the STAG options appraisal summary tables and further stakeholder engagement.
BPF004-5 A944/A9119 Westhill to Aberdeen	Completion of STAG appraisal and identification of preferred options	Option development and appraisal work has continued, with an internal stakeholder workshop taking place in November 2021. Option development and appraisal work to continue, with engagement and site visits due to take place early 2022.
BPF004-7 A92 Stonehaven to Aberdeen	Completion of STAG appraisal and identification of preferred options	Project Inception complete with review of Existing Studies and Policy Review completed in December 2021. Option appraisal to commence early 2022.
BPF004-9 City Centre	Outline Business Case development	The Phase 1 City Centre Masterplan (CCMP) Traffic Management Plan has been completed and the outcomes agreed by this Committee in November. Phase 2 works are currently being scoped with commencement to take place early 2022.
BPF004-11 Aberdeen Rapid Transit	Completion of Case for Change	Case for change activities ongoing, drawing heavily on work already done to date but also including a review of existing / planned Bus Rapid Transit Schemes elsewhere; Problems and Opportunities; Policy Review; and consideration of Transport Planning Objectives (TPOs). A mind-mapping

		workshop was held with partners of the Bus Alliance in November 2021. Discussion with client team on option generation is progressing. Next steps are to continue case for change activities including the review of other schemes and development of TPOs. Option generation and some initial appraisal will be carried out in parallel to some of the case for change activities.
BPF004-13 South College Street	Design and Preparation	Single Procurement Document process has been concluded and main works tenderers selected. Next steps are to complete the off street car park access agreement, issue the main works tender and complete the design.
BPF004-14 Comms and Engagement	Scoping	The scope has been identified and circulated within the Bus Partnership Fund Working Group. Next steps are to liaise with marketing and comms teams at the councils and Nestrans to understand how this commission would be managed, how it fits with wider marketing & comms activities and to develop the consultancy brief for issue in early 2022.
BPF004-15 Programme Management and Contingency/Optimism Bias	Ongoing	Programme Management is ongoing with monthly project reports being submitted to Transport Scotland. Quarterly financial claims commenced from October 2021 and the first claim was received from Transport Scotland in December 2021.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Bus Partnership Fund grant award is fully funded by Transport Scotland, and no match funding is required from the Council or other North East Bus Alliance partners.
- 4.2 The grant award is for the financial years of 2021/2022 and 2022/2023, with a completion date of 31 March 2023.
- 4.3 Aberdeen City Council is the designated lead authority and Accounting Officer for the grant and will reclaim eligible spend in accordance with the grant conditions.
- 4.4 The first financial claim of £55,749.42 was processed and paid on 10th December 2021.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are conditions associated with the grant that must be complied with in order to claim eligible spend. These have been reviewed with Legal Services in accordance with the Scheme of Governance prior to accepting and signing the grant award.
- 5.2 Continued compliance with the grant conditions by all partners in the Bus Alliance, as reported to this Committee in August 2021 and referenced in 3.1 will be necessary for successful reclaim of eligible expenditure.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Strategic Risk	Delivery of public transport measures supports a number of the Council's strategic priorities, particularly in terms of a sustainable economy, a sustainable transport system, the continued health and prosperity of our citizens, reductions in carbon emissions and a high quality environment. Failure to deliver public transport improvements where there is evidence of their effectiveness could undermine the Council's ability to realise these aspirations.	M	Work with partners to deliver the projects within the grant award and continue to work in partnership to maximise 'match in kind' to add value to this grant in terms of meeting the strategic objectives of partners and Transport Scotland.
Compliance	There are conditions attached to the grant award that must be adhered to in order to secure payment of eligible spend. Certain actions, such as the progression of Traffic Regulation Orders, may be	M	Compliance with statutory processes, grant conditions and Scheme of Governance. Regular progress and spend reporting to Transport Scotland, Aberdeen City Council and the Capital and Transportation Programme Boards, and to the North East Bus Alliance Board.

	subject to statutory objection.		
Operational	There may be risks around the business cases and procurement of public transport measures proposed and these will be detailed and addressed as each project progresses.	L	Compliance with the Scheme of Governance and monitoring/ updating of project risk registers.
Financial	Risks around spend being ineligible or rejected, and therefore having to be absorbed by this Council and partners.	L	All partners have confirmed they have read and understood the grant conditions, and have confirmed they will work with this Council to ensure compliance. Expenditure on projects is likely to be by this Council and Nestrans, both of whom have rigorous internal governance procedures. Regular reporting to Transport Scotland and partners will also help to reduce this risk. Any grant funds to go to Nestrans or Aberdeenshire Council will be through a separate grant letter obligating them to comply with the grant terms and conditions.
Reputational	Failure to deliver in accordance with the grant conditions to help meet the Council's (and partners) strategic objectives undermines the Council's commitments to improving the lives of those who live, work and visit Aberdeen.	M	Work with partners to deliver the projects within the grant award and continue to work in partnership to maximise 'match in kind' to add value to this grant in terms of meeting the strategic objectives of partners and Transport Scotland.
Environment / Climate	ACC's net zero vision and strategic infrastructure plan – energy transition: transport emissions	M	Work with partners to deliver the projects within the grant award and continue to work in partnership to maximise

	are a significant contributor so increasing sustainable travel will be necessary to achieving this sector's required reduction.		'match in kind' to add value to this grant in terms of meeting the strategic objectives of partners and Transport Scotland.
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7. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u>	
Impact of Report	
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	Facilitating and encouraging an increase in public transport usage through utilisation of this grant supports the delivery of Economy Policy Statement 4: Increase the city centre footfall through delivery of the City Centre Masterplan, including the redesigned Union Terrace Gardens, and Place Policy Statement 3: Refresh the Local Transport Strategy, ensuring it includes the results of the city centre parking review; promotes cycle and pedestrian routes; and considers support for public transport.
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The projects funded by this grant support the delivery of the following Stretch Outcomes: 2. 400 unemployed Aberdeen City residents supported into Fair Work by 2026 3. 500 Aberdeen City residents upskilled/ reskilled to enable them to move into, within and between economic opportunities as they arise by 2026. The development and delivery of active and sustainable travel infrastructure supports a range of economic policies and strategies that will benefit the economy and support access to key employment areas. There will also be employment opportunities during construction.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The projects funded by this grant support the delivery of the following Stretch Outcomes: 7. 95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026. 8. Child friendly city where all decisions which impact on children and young people are informed by them by 2026. 11. Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026.

	Active and sustainable travel are known to improve a number of health conditions, potentially increasing life expectancy. The projects funded by this grant include measures to support, encourage and increase active and sustainable travel thereby also producing less greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality. There will be further opportunities for engagement through the development and design process and there will be employment opportunities during construction.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	The projects funded by this grant support the delivery of the following Stretch Outcomes: 13. Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate. 14. Increase sustainable travel: 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling as main mode of travel by 2026. The projects funded by this grant aim to increase active and sustainable travel which will contribute to reductions in carbon emissions and improvements in air quality.
Regional and City Strategies	The projects funded by this grant support the Regional Transport Strategy, Strategic Development Plan, the Regional Economic Strategy, and locally the Local Transport Strategy, Aberdeen Active Travel Action Plan, Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan, Aberdeen City Centre Masterplan, LOIP, Air Quality Action Plan, Local Development Plan and Aberdeen Net Zero Vision.
UK and Scottish Legislative and Policy Programmes	The projects funded by this grant contribute towards the delivery of the Scottish Government's National Transport Strategy (NTS2) and Cleaner Air for Scotland 2.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Impact Assessment	The projects funded by this grant will be/ are being undertaken in accordance with the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance which appraises impacts across a range of categories (Economy, Environment, Accessibility and Social Inclusion, Safety and Integration). Further detailed assessments will be undertaken through the development and design process, as appropriate.

Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
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9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

[City Growth and Resources Committee 12 November 2021 Combined City and Beach Report Item 4](#)

[City Growth and Resources Committee 10 November 2021 Bus Partnership Fund Item 18](#)

[Bus Alliance Action Plan April 2021](#)

10. APPENDICES

None

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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