

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Executive Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Lead Member for Universal Services
<b>Date:</b>	15 January 2024
<b>Title:</b>	Southampton & South-West Hampshire Transforming Cities Fund: Project Appraisal
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Universal Services

**Contact name:** Ben Smith

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### 1. The decision:

- 1.1 That the Executive Lead Member for Universal Services approves the Project Appraisals for Southampton and South-West Hampshire Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) schemes, as outlined in this report.
- 1.2 That approval be given to procure, spend and enter into necessary contractual arrangements, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, to implement A27 Providence Hill, Bursledon Cycle Route in the value of £4.024million in line with the revised Project Appraisal.
- 1.3 That approval be given to procure, spend and enter into necessary contractual arrangements, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, to implement Bluestar2 Bus Corridor Improvements in the value of £530,000 in line with the Project Appraisal.
- 1.4 That authority to make the necessary arrangements to implement the schemes, including minor variations to the designs or contracts, be delegated to the Director of Universal Services.
- 1.5 That the Executive Lead Member for Universal Services delegates authority to the Director of Universal Services, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, to progress any orders, notices or statutory procedures and secure any consents, licences, permissions, rights or easements necessary to enable implementation of these projects.

### 2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1 Hampshire County Council together with Southampton City Council was successful in securing £57million of funding from the Department for Transport's (DfT) Tranche 2 Transforming Cities Fund, which aims to improve

productivity by investing in public and sustainable transport infrastructure in and around City Regions.

- 2.2 Delivery of the programme is well advanced with the majority of schemes completed or in construction. Approval of the Project Appraisals will enable the final two schemes to be delivered. This will provide improvements to cycleways, footways and road crossings to encourage walking and cycling, and offer improvements to the bus network encouraging bus travel and offering choice.
- 2.3 This approach fully aligns with the objectives and strategic aims of the emerging Local Transport Plan 4.

### **3. Other options considered and rejected:**

- 3.1 Abandon the Bluestar2 Corridor bus improvements – this is not recommended as the alternative technology led solution delivers significant bus journey time savings are within budget and in line with the Department for Transport funding conditions.
- 3.2 Continue with the original Fair Oak to Eastleigh Bus Priority scheme (entitled Bishopstoke Road Bus Improvements) under the TCF programme, identify additional funding and seek an extension of time from the Department for Transport – this is not recommended as delivery under the TCF programme would be significantly outside the terms of the funding conditions, there is no alternative funding approved at this stage and similar benefits can be achieved through a deliverable technology based solution.
- 3.3 Abandon the cycle improvements at Providence Hill – this is not recommended as the project offers an important cycle route linking with existing infrastructure creating a broader network.
- 3.4 Further reduce the scope of Providence Hill to achieve a scheme which aligns with the approved budget – this is not recommended as further descoping will erode the value of the scheme and deliver uncoordinated lengths of cycle route with limited value.

### **4 Conflicts of interest:**

- 4.1 Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None
- 4.2 Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

### **5 Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.**

### **6 Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.**

### **7 Statement from the Decision Maker:**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

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**15 January 2024**

**Executive Lead Member for Universal Services  
Councillor Nick Adams-King**