

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR, PLACE

TO

THE CITY MAYOR'S PROPERTY AND REGENERATION BRIEFING

ON 12th April 2021

TITLE: Levelling Up Fund – Salford Rise

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the City Mayor:

1. Notes the contents of this report;
 2. Support Salford Rise as the priority project for Salford within the parliamentary constituency for Salford and Eccles for Levelling Up Funding; and
 3. Endorses the briefing of Rebecca Long Bailey MP on the specifics of the Salford Rise scheme and Levelling Up Funding
-

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Budget announcements made last week launched three new investment programmes aimed at supporting local economic growth.

This briefing paper will explain the key aspects of the Levelling Up Fund and recommends 'Salford Rise,' located within the Innovation District of the Crescent Masterplan, as the priority project within the constituency of Salford and Eccles for submission to the fund.

The fund is focussed on capital investment in local infrastructure and is jointly managed by HM Treasury, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Department for Transport. A total of £4billion has been earmarked to the fund for England over the next four years.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Crescent Development Framework January 2021.

KEY DECISION: NO

DETAILS:

1.0 Background

- 1.1 As part of the budget announcements made last week, Government launched three new investment programmes aimed at supporting local economic growth. These programmes are:
- Levelling Up Fund
 - UK Community Renewal Fund
 - Community Ownership Fund
- 1.2 This briefing paper will explain the key aspects of the Levelling Up fund and recommends 'Salford Rise,' which is major piece of infrastructure located within the Innovation District of the Crescent Masterplan, as the priority project within the constituency of Salford and Eccles for submission to the fund. Levelling Up Fund as the only programme the Council is currently eligible to secure funding from.
- 1.3 The fund is focussed on capital investment in local infrastructure and is jointly managed by HM Treasury, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Department for Transport. A total of £4billion has been earmarked to the fund for England over the next four years.

2.0 Eligibility and Funding Approach

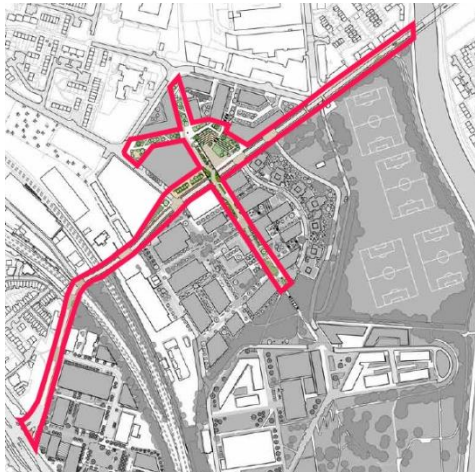
- 2.1 The Government has issued a prospectus in relation to the fund which sets the eligibility for the funding. Local authorities can apply for the funding or combined authorities are able to submit one bid for transport themed funding.
- 2.2 All local authorities in England have been assessed and measured using an index considering the following place characteristics:
- Need for economic recovery and growth
 - Need for improved transport connectivity
 - Need for regeneration
- 2.3 Category 1 represents the local authority areas identified by the index with the highest level of need. Salford has been placed in category 2 with all the other GM districts in category 1. The specific methodology used to calculate the index has recently been published and a separate review is being undertaken regarding Salford's category 2 status. Whilst category 2 status does not prevent the submission of bids it should be noted that there is strong GMCA officer support and a compelling economic case for this proposition (see paragraph 3.4).
- 2.4 The first round of the fund centres on three themes:
- **Transport investment** - with a preference for small and medium sized proposals, larger local transport schemes will be considered by exception
 - **Regeneration and town centre investment** – appears centred around supporting Town and High Street initiatives but also include reference to acquisition and regeneration brownfield sites
 - **Cultural investment** – focus on maintaining, regenerating or repurposing museums, galleries, sports or athletics facilities, visitor attractions including historical parks and gardens, heritage assets and creating new community owned spaces to support the arts

- 2.5 Whilst guidance has yet to be published regarding the specifics of any bid submission, what is known at this stage is that the submission of round 1 bids must be prior to the 18th June 2021 and decisions on funding expected in Autumn 2021. The programme details at this stage also provide criteria in relation to the total value limit of £20m plus a 10% local match requirement which is expected to comprise of existing works and other existing expenditure together with contributions from partners. The number of bids a local authority can submit is determined by the number of MPs whose constituencies lie wholly within the local authority boundary. Therefore, having regard to the published criteria, Salford can submit two bids.
- 2.6 As stated earlier this report is specific to the constituency of Rebecca Long Bailey MP. A separate report will be brought forward to approve the priority scheme for constituency for Worsley and Eccles South (Barbara Keeley MP) in due course. The prime candidate is an infrastructure project supporting COSCOS delivery and the Salford element of the next phases of Port Salford infrastructure (WGIS). Furthermore, we are liaising with Trafford and GMCA colleagues on the remaining elements of the Port Salford infrastructure requirements which sit wholly within the Trafford boundary.
- 2.7 The Assessment of round 1 bids focused on:
- Characteristics of the place – reference to the category of need (with category 1 being the highest level)
 - Deliverability – prioritisation of those can start delivery or investment by March 22 and completed by March 24
 - Strategic fit - with local and fund priorities
 - Value for money - supported by an economic case

3.0 Salford and Eccles Bid Priority Scheme – Salford Rise

- 3.1 Members will be aware that the City Council entered into a partnership with University of Salford and English City Fund (ECf) last year following a procurement process and have already produced a new development framework for the area. The Framework, adopted by SCC on 25th January 2021, is a key material consideration in the determination of planning applications and provides the overarching framework and development principles across the 102 hectare area and sets the strategic context for the area. The Framework establishes the following development zones each with their own characteristics: Crescent Zone, Adelphi Zone, Peel Park Campus, Transport Zone, Innovation Zone North, Health and Innovation Zone and Parks and River.
- 3.2 Currently Innovation Zone North is divided in two sections by Frederick Road which forms a barrier running in an East-to-West direction. Therefore, a key objective for the development of this Zone is to remove this barrier through development of a major piece of infrastructure which will be, in essence, a podium over Frederick Road, with upgrading of Frederick Road to improve connectivity around the edge of the masterplan and is named 'Salford Rise'.

3.3 The plan to the left demonstrates the extent of interventions that comprise 'Salford Rise'. The key principles of which are:



Removal of east-west barrier (Frederick Road)

Pedestrian and cycle connectivity within the area will be enhanced which allows greater movement in a north to south direction, opening up Innovation Zone North and driving further footfall.

Creation of a safe pedestrian zone

The Frederick Road podium and Salford Rise will create a safe and accessible zone for pedestrians and cyclists using a shared space surface over the road connecting into city-wide cycling and walking infrastructure.

Existing traffic flows not significantly impacted

Frederick Road will continue to operate as existing without traffic flows being significantly impacted albeit with significantly proved walking, cycling and green infrastructure.

Connecting Innovation Zone North

Use of the Salford Rise to link Innovation Zone North (and the existing communities beyond) to Peel Park and main University Campus.

Improved pedestrian and cycle connectivity

Facilitated through revised urban grain with all routes leading to the Transport Hub at the heart of the Framework area and improve movement from the surrounding residential communities.



(Illustration of Salford Rise over Frederick Road)

3.4 Salford Rise is a key element of the creation of place within the Innovation zone and will address the principles set out above. Furthermore, the Innovation Zone as a whole is expected to deliver £200m of commercial development, over 6,000 additional jobs and additional £416m additional GVA and £7.5m in additional business rates.

4.0 Conclusion / recommendation

4.1 Therefore, having regard to the eligibility criteria published by government in relation to the fund, it is considered that the Salford Rise project represents a strategic fit for the Levelling Up Fund and a key aspect of the Crescent Development Framework which was adopted in January of this year. Endorsement of the project for the fund by the Council will enable our private sector partner to commit the necessary design fees so that the criteria for submission and delivery can be achieved.

4.2 It is recommended that the City Mayor:

1. Notes the contents of this report;
2. Support Salford Rise as the priority project for Salford within the parliamentary constituency for Salford and Eccles for Levelling Up Funding; and
3. Endorses the briefing of Rebecca Long Bailey MP on the specifics of the Salford Rise scheme and Levelling Up Funding

KEY COUNCIL POLICIES:

Crescent development Framework January 2021

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

Not applicable at this stage

ASSESSMENT OF RISK:

Not applicable at this stage

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not applicable at this stage

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable at this stage

PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable at this stage

HR IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable at this stage

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable at this stage

OTHER DIRECTORATES CONSULTED:

Not applicable at this stage

CONTACT OFFICER: TEL NO:

Kurt Partington, Head of Development 794 4913

WARDS TO WHICH REPORT RELATES: Irwell Riverside