

Investment Sub-Committee

Wigford Way Project

Update

This update report follows on from the discussions on the Project had at the last Sub Committee meeting and subsequent papers and actions arising from the Town Board meeting on the 8 September 2023. Town Board members were advised through these papers that:

“The County Council have advised that they were unable to proceed to a preferred option stage due to current uncertainty in how best Wigford Way would contribute to the movement of pedestrians, cyclists, buses and other vehicles in combination with other key schemes and proposals within the Lincoln Transport Strategy.

There are several transport schemes in development that are key to the Lincoln Transport Strategy and likely to have an impact on the movement of pedestrians, cyclists, buses and other vehicles in the heart of Lincoln. These include North Hykeham Relief Road, WGC link road/Transport Hub, Broadgate proposals and also possible future Mobility Hubs. The impact of these schemes on the wider City network will become clearer over the next five years and while funding for delivery is currently unidentified, should an appropriate source come forward, the options can be readily developed to detailed stage relatively quickly if required.

Formal Public consultation in advance of a clear delivery plan is not thought to be prudent at this stage, but the options may be useful in any wider stakeholder discussions such as part of a City Centre Masterplan review.”

County Council Response to information requested by Town Board

A letter was sent to the County Council (24.8.23), from the Town Board secretariate requesting further information, clarification to some concerns raised. An update with respect to the specific information requested is reported as follows:

Request 1. Return of the signed Grant Funding Agreement.

Response The Grant Funding Agreement this has now been received from the County Council, signed and sealed.

Request 2/3/5 2. Evidence of £22,173.18 spend claimed to date. 3. Submission of a claim with appropriate evidence for remaining costs incurred to date. 5. Return of any unspent grant money provided as forward funding.

Response With regard to confirmation and evidence of final project expenditure the County Council have confirmed that £95,292.07 is the final cost and all evidence of expenditure and defrayal has been received for the works to date. The remaining project sum is £244,707.93. All ford funding has been evidenced so there is no requirement for any unspent grant money to be returned.

Request 4. Written confirmation of status of project and delivery of outputs/outcomes.

Response With regard to the request for formal confirmation of Project status, the County Council formally confirmed at the Town Board meeting on the 8 September that they could not prioritise any further work on the project and were unable to complete all the outputs/outcomes originally committed to in the approved project Business case.

The approved proposal was for £340,000 to undertake all necessary feasibility work to identify the optimal road scheme in readiness for implementation should further funding become available, with expected delivery of the following specific outputs:

- £340,000 spent directly on project delivery.
- Provision of a Technical survey and feasibility work leading to the production of a detailed masterplan and design proposal in accordance with LCC Quality Management System
- Provision of a Stakeholder engagement plan
- Production of a Full Business Case for the development and delivery phase, including detailed outputs and outcomes.

Currently only the provision of a Technical Survey and partial completion of feasibility/design work has been delivered. Other outputs are yet to be met.

Town Board agreed at their meeting on the 8 September that the City of Lincoln Council would lead on using the remaining £244,707.93 to complete the project outputs through the commissioning of a City Centre Masterplan, including stakeholder engagement, and building on the scoping report completed by the County Council to identify a preferred option solution for Wigford Way.

The City Centre masterplan review commenced with a workshop at the City Council Growth Conference on the 16 November 202, and a delivery plan and work programme is currently being scoped working to a completion programme of March 2025. The work programme will include a specific workstream for Wigford Way including a planned stakeholder workshop and a commissioned further assessment.

Recommendation

- That further to circulation of these reports to Investment Sub Committee and short window given for comment, that the request be extended to all Town Board members with a response requested either before or at the meeting.
- That subject to consideration of any responses received Town Board approve the approach in the reports and enable this project to proceed as outlined and
- Agree to reducing the Project risk to 'amber'.