

Report to:	EXECUTIVE CABINET
Date:	29 September 2021
Executive Member:	Councillor Warren Bray – Executive Member (Transport and Connectivity)
Reporting Officer:	Jayne Traverse – Director of Growth Gregg Stott – Assistant Director Investment, Development & Housing
Subject:	STALYBRIDGE INTERCHANGE OPTIONS DEVELOPMENT
Report Summary:	This report seeks approval for Tameside Council to drawdown allocated funding from Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and progress the Stalybridge Interchange Options Study.
Recommendations:	That Executive Cabinet be recommended to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) To drawdown the £0.100m funding from Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) allocated to Tameside for the Stalybridge Interchange Options Study and enter into offer letter as required. (ii) To procure appropriate consultancy support to undertake the Stalybridge Interchange Options Study (including preparation of baseline studies to inform the future development of an Outline Business Case) and manage the associated programme of works.
Corporate Plan:	Key aims of the Corporate Plan are to ensure modern infrastructure and a sustainable environment that works for all generations and future generations. The Stalybridge Interchange Options Study will support the delivery of these aims.
Policy Implications:	The Stalybridge Interchange Options Study supports the policy aims of the Council's Inclusive Growth Strategy (2021), the Council's growth priorities agreed at Council February 2020, the TfGM 2040 Transport Strategy and the draft Greater Manchester Places for Everyone joint development strategy.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	<p>The report sets out details for the utilisation of £0.100m allocated via TfGM to support the Stalybridge Interchange options study.</p> <p>It is noted that the funding must be spent by 31 March 2022, however the related conditions attached to the funding are not known at this stage. It is therefore essential that the terms of the funding agreement are known and complied with in advance of any contract award to facilitate the options study.</p> <p>The key expected outputs via the proposed study are provided in section 3 of the report. The study will be procured via STAR to ensure a compliant procurement process is followed and that value for money is clearly evidenced for the related expenditure up to a maximum sum of £0.100m.</p> <p>Members should note that the outcome of the study will be reported to the Executive Cabinet at a later date for consideration.</p>

**Legal Implications
(Authorised by the Borough
Solicitor)**

It is understood that £0.100m of funding has been allocated by TFGM to support the interchange options study and that this funding needs to be formally accepted. However, in order to do that and obtain the necessary governance from Executive Cabinet there needs to be a clear understanding of the conditions attaching to the grant as currently the only condition referred to is that it must be spent by 31 March 2022. So it is not clear if there is any liability to replay the grant and in what circumstances.

With regards, the procurement of works the project officers should ensure that they obtain advice from STaR in relation to running a compliant procurement process, which also provides the assurance that any spend represents value for money. It is also advisable to explore the running of a mini competition if a framework or similar arrangement is to be used to procure the consultancy support and to ensure that any such appointment has clear delivery and duty of care obligations.

Risk Management:

Risks associated with the work are set out at section 4.

Background Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Mike Reed, Head of Major Programmes



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Tameside Council has identified Stalybridge Town Centre as one of its growth priorities, supporting delivery of the Tameside Inclusive Growth Strategy 2021-26 in making our town centres hubs for living, culture, employment and services supporting a sustainable retail sector. Stalybridge Town Centre was selected as Tameside's focus for the GM Mayor's Town Centre Challenge in 2018. Initial work to plan and progress the delivery of Stalybridge's Town Centre Challenge was co-ordinated by the Stalybridge Town Centre Challenge (STCC) Board and a Stalybridge Town Centre Challenge Action Plan now sets out the aspirations for the town centre.
- 1.2 The Stalybridge High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ), funded through a £1.275m grant from Historic England and £1.275m match funding from the Council, is helping to regenerate Market Street and restore the town's local historic character. The project drew on the priorities expressed through the draft Strategy and Action Plan, matched against the criteria for HAZ funding, and has eight strands:
- The Historic Walk to provide connectivity, improve safety, remove clutter and improve signage.
 - Repairs to the Civic Hall to future proof this historic building.
 - A feasibility study to look at re-purposing of the market space in the Civic Hall.
 - Internal re-purposing of the market space in the Civic Hall.
 - A repair and reinstate grant scheme along the historic walk and into the cultural centre.
 - Project officer post to administer and provide liaison for the project.
 - The community engagement funds will provide money for events and workshops in relation to the scheme as well as a marketing budget to promote and raise awareness of the scheme.
 - Market Street Studies
- 1.3 The Stalybridge Masterplanning and Development Appraisals Study funded via Evergreen I and currently being finalised, supports the Action Themes identified through the Stalybridge Town Centre Challenge, primarily focussing on increasing the town centre population, and supporting a more sustainable transport strategy with the developments and associated public realm in turn, enhancing the overall environment.
- 1.4 This work and the Stalybridge Town Centre Challenge Action Plan has informed the £14.5m bid submitted by the Council to the Levelling Up Fund in June 2021 to seek further capital funding support to progress the regeneration of Stalybridge Town Centre focused on:
- Comprehensive redevelopment of vacant sites for a mix of uses including residential, retail, leisure, community, and commercial uses.
 - Rationalisation of surplus retail space for alternative commercial uses
 - Improvements to public realm and accessibility within the Town Centre, including consolidation of car parking provision.

2. STALYBRIDGE INTERCHANGE

- 2.1 The Stalybridge Town Centre Challenge Action Plan identified the need to determine the future role of Stalybridge Bus Station and consider the potential for its relocation into a more appropriate location. There are currently four stands at Stalybridge Bus Station covering an area of c0.25ha served by c7 buses per hour. It is located off Market Street c300 meters from Stalybridge Railway Station. The Action Plan also identified the requirement to engage with Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) to understand/influence the potential longer term delivery of an Interchange linked to any future Metrolink or train-tram provision and the role of Stalybridge Railway Station.

- 2.2 GMCA and TfGM have identified a need to provide Local Authorities with revenue funding to enable general project development expertise to be brought in at a local level to support the development of local place-based transport priorities. The outputs of this work across GM will support development of a pipeline of schemes for delivery against anticipated future capital funding streams. TfGM has specifically allocated £0.100m of transport revenue funding from the Intra-City Transport Fund (ICTF) to Tameside Council for scheme development relating to a potential Stalybridge Interchange.

3. NEXT STEPS

- 3.1 It is proposed that a consultancy team is procured in October 2021 by the Council through STaR Procurement to undertake a Stalybridge Interchange Options Study. This will support a programme of work that develops options for a potential new transport interchange (bus and rail) in and around the existing rail station linked to the wider programme of regeneration in the Town Centre and mindful of potential for future Metrolink/tram train services. This would align with the vision to improve access to and through the Town Centre, the broader GM transport priorities and the GM Clean Air Strategy, and support an integrated transport solution with buses, trains, rapid transit, new cycle infrastructure and improved walking routes. It will also support the wider programme of regeneration work being progressed within the Town Centre
- 3.2 The GM Stations Alliance, including TfGM; Network Rail; LCR; GMCA and the rail service providers (Trans Pennine and Northern) identified Stalybridge as a growth point for new development around the railway station area in the future. The Stalybridge Interchange Options Study will also need to be mindful of any feasibility and potential future schemes emerging from this work.
- 3.3 The proposed work programme would include an objective setting workshop with key stakeholders to develop the high level objectives for any new Interchange facility. A number of related baseline studies will then be prepared to inform the future development of an Outline Business Case. The baseline surveys required will include: bus boarding and alighting; traffic counts; pedestrian counts; interchange user surveys; demand estimation; commercial market assessment; Land Registry search; utility searches; and an options assessment for siting the facility.
- 3.4 The intention is to complete the Stalybridge Interchange Options Study by March 2022 following which a further report will be brought to Executive Cabinet for consideration.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 The main project risks associated with delivery of the Stalybridge Interchange Options Study have been identified in the table below.

Risk Area	Detail	RAG Rating	Mitigation	RAG Rating
Procurement	Lack of capacity in the consultancy sector to undertake the work.	Yellow	Early engagement with TfGM and STaR procurement to understand the most appropriate procurement routes.	Green

Financial	Insufficient budget to complete the scope of works required.		Early engagement with TfGM and partners to clearly understand requirements.	
Programme	Lack of resource capacity to undertake workstreams in line with expectations.		Apply adequate resource to the project to ensure programme adherence. Seek additional support from TfGM partners.	

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Stalybridge Interchange Options Study supports delivery of the Tameside Corporate Plan, Tameside Inclusive Growth Strategy, and the Stalybridge Town Centre Challenge Action Plan. Furthermore it fully aligns with the broader GM transport priorities, GM Clean Air Strategy, and draft GM Places for Everyone joint development strategy.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 As set out at the front of the report.