



LEP – Sub Committee

LEP - Transport for Lancashire Committee

Private and Confidential: No

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Blackpool Tramway Extension Full Approval Application (Appendix 'A' refers')

Report author: Dave Colbert, Tel: 01772 534501, Specialist Advisor Transport Planning
dave.colbert@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

The Blackpool Tramway Extension scheme will provide a new link from the current tramway on the Promenade adjacent to the North Pier along Talbot Road to Blackpool North station. In April 2016, the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership granted the scheme Conditional Approval but attached a number of conditions that Blackpool Council would need to address prior to seeking Full Approval. The council has now submitted a Full Business Case for Full Approval.

The consultants Jacobs have undertaken an independent assessment of the Full Business Case on behalf of the LEP. Jacobs are satisfied that Blackpool Council has addressed all of the conditions attached at Conditional Approval and recommend that the LEP grant Full Approval, enabling the scheme to progress to construction and to access Growth Deal funding, subject to the Secretary of State for Transport confirming the Transport and Works Act Order.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to consider the attached Full Business Case report prepared by Jacobs and recommend the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board grant the scheme Full Approval.

Background and Advice

The Blackpool Tramway Extension scheme will provide a new link from the current tramway on the Promenade adjacent to the North Pier along Talbot Road to Blackpool North station. In April 2016, the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership granted the scheme Conditional Approval but attached a number of conditions that Blackpool Council would need to address prior to seeking Full Approval.



Blackpool Council has now submitted a Full Business Case for Full Approval. The granting of Full Approval indicates the LEP's acceptance of a Full Transport Business Case and approval to proceed to implementation. It occurs when all necessary statutory powers are in place and any necessary conditions attached at Conditional Approval have been satisfied.

The consultants Jacobs have undertaken an independent assessment of the Full Business Case on behalf of the LEP. Jacobs are satisfied that Blackpool Council has addressed all of the conditions specified at Conditional Approval and recommend that the LEP grant Full Approval, subject to the Secretary of State for Transport confirming the Transport and Works Act Order. Blackpool Council is expecting this decision in the current Quarter 3 2017/18. Jacobs' report is attached as Appendix 'A'.

The total project outturn cost is £23.4m, with the LEP contributing £16.4m through the Lancashire Growth Deal. Blackpool Council's S151 officer has provided a letter confirming the council's commitment to fund the balance together with any overspend. The scheme has a Benefit to Cost Ratio (BCR) of 3.07, representing High Value for Money. In addition, the forecast operator revenue generated over the project appraisal period (60 years) is nearly 33% higher than forecast operating costs, indicating a positive overall operating position. The scheme will also generate between 11,500 and 20,000 additional visitor trips to Blackpool per annum, generating between £29.5m and £50.9m of Gross Value Added (GVA) benefits over the 60-year project appraisal period. Subject to confirmation of the Transport and Works Act Order, Blackpool Council expect construction to take place between April 2018 and July 2019.