

## Report to the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Supervisory Board

13<sup>th</sup> April 2017

### Ashted Circus Project Investment

#### Purpose of the Report

To update the Supervisory Board on the decision made by the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) Programme Delivery Board on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017, in relation to Local Growth Fund funding for the Ashted Circus, Birmingham Ring Road, to the value of £5.545m.

#### Recommendation

1. The Supervisory Board members are asked to note the agreement to fund the LGF grant and the manner in which the funding will be defrayed.

#### Background

2. Ashted Circus is a junction of high strategic importance on the Birmingham ring road, A4540. The junction links Eastside, one of the most deprived areas of central Birmingham, to the ring road and junction 5 of the M6, via major business and retail destinations such as Fort Dunlop and Star City. Most notably, the junction forms the key access point for Aston University and development within the Birmingham Curzon HS2 Masterplan, including the planned High Speed 2 railway station and the proposed development of a knowledge quarter based around Birmingham Science Park and nearby educational establishments.
3. The junction is one of a number identified pinch points on the ring road causing congestion, particularly during peak periods. The approaches to Ashted Circus experience particularly severity, with delays doubling journey time on some approaches and junction flows of over 5000 in 2004, rising to 6100 in 2026 in the AM peak.
4. The current pedestrian and cycle facilities are below-grade, and provide an unwelcome environment with a high perception of crime. Severance is experienced by users of the underpass through this poor urban realm, restricting movement between areas of high deprivation in east Birmingham and areas of growth and opportunities in the city centre.
5. The proposed works will upgrade the current un-signalised roundabout to a full signalised crossroads, with accompanying pedestrian and cycle crossing facilities. Several key benefits will be realised as a result of the Ashted Circus scheme most notably:
  - Reduction in journey times in peak periods;
  - Improved connectivity and access to Birmingham Curzon HS2 Masterplan area;
  - New pedestrian and cycle facilities;
  - Increased junction safety; and
  - Extension of asset lifespan.
6. Ashted Circus forms part of a package of five ring road improvement schemes to enhance

the operation of the ring road and deliver additional capacity for growth. The completion of this scheme will ensure the maximum benefit realisation of all five schemes, which includes Bordesley Circus, Curzon Circle and Haden Circus (completed March 2016) and Holloway Circus (planned completion autumn 2017).

7. The outcomes below reflects the contribution Ashted Circus will make towards the package of five ring road improvement schemes to enhance the operation of the ring road and deliver additional capacity for growth.

Description Outcome	Expected Delivery Date
600,000m <sup>2</sup> gross development	2026
14,000 net jobs (estimated)	2026
GVA impact of £1,300m (post scheme completion)	per annum

### Funding Profile

8. Match funding has been secured and the scheme is expected to start construction September 2017. The funding profile is set out below:

	2014/15 £m	2015/16 £m	2016/17 £m	2017/18 £m	2018/19 £m	Total £m
<b>DfT Pinch Point</b>	0.227	0.27	0	0	0	0.254
<b>Enterprise Zone</b>	0	0	0.3	1.0	0.998	2.298
<b>ITB</b>	0.003	0	0	0	0	0.003
<b>LGF</b>	0	0.162	0.599	3.314	1.470	5.545
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.23</b>	<b>0.189</b>	<b>0.899</b>	<b>4.314</b>	<b>2.468</b>	<b>8.100</b>

### Conclusions

9. The Ashted Circus will support growth and connectivity across the city centre, addressing the severance of economic opportunities from some of our most deprived communities. The Supervisory Board are asked to note the granting of £5.545m LGF funding for Ashted Circus, Birmingham Ring Road.

Prepared by: Lesley Edwards  
Growth Deal Programme Manager

Contact: [lesley.edwards@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:lesley.edwards@birmingham.gov.uk)  
0121 303 8797 / 07920576802

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