

Name of meeting: Cabinet
Date: 28 July 2020
Title of report: Major Transport - Major Scheme Approvals and Update

Purpose of report:

To seek authority for the Council to proceed with three infrastructure Scheme as part of the Major Infrastructure Scheme Programme and to report progress made to date on our Major Infrastructure Scheme Programme.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes If yes give the reason why Spending will exceed £250k and scheme boundaries will affect many wards
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u>?	Key Decision - Yes Private Report/Private Appendix - No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Karl Battersby - 10.07.20
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Eamonn Croston - 15.07.20
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft - 14.07.20
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Peter McBride Strategic Planning Regeneration and Transport Cllr Naheed Mather Strategic Housing, Regeneration and Enforcement

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted:

The A62 Smart Corridor Scheme – Dalton

The Huddersfield Better Connected Stations Scheme - Newsome

Cross Church Street Scheme - Newsome

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes - GDPR does not apply

1. SUMMARY

1.1 Authority is sought for the Council to carry out the following major infrastructure Schemes as part of the Council's Major Infrastructure Scheme Programme in line with specific recommendations in Section 6

- (a) A62 Smart Corridor Scheme
- (b) Huddersfield Better Connected Stations Scheme
- (c) Cross Church Street Scheme

2. INFORMATION REQUIRED TO TAKE A DECISION

- 2.1 In July 2014, Kirklees, together with the WY Combined Authority, the other four WY district councils and York, created a government funded West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund to provide much needed major investment in transport to create an environment where economic growth can occur. The West Yorkshire Combined Authority secured £1bn of funding spread over 15 years.
- 2.2 For its part Kirklees continues to develop several complex multi-faceted transport schemes which at their core include public transport, cycling, walking initiatives.
- 2.3 All schemes must pass through an agreed Assurance Process. The Assurance Process (Appendix 1) is administered by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) Portfolio Management Office.
- 2.4 In Kirklees schemes are managed at both Project and Programme Board level. Project scope, scheduling, resource management, budgets and risk are managed throughout. Scheme Highlight Reports are produced on a monthly basis with any necessary decisions, by exception, being escalated to the Strategic Director, Karl Battersby.
- 2.5 To date Cabinet has received several previous reports which relate to the West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund / Major Infrastructure Scheme Programme.
- 2.6 On 9th February 2016 Cabinet approved the 'West Yorkshire Transport Fund – Scheme Principles' report which highlighted several key highway design principles that could be used as a basis for the design and development of the Kirklees WY+TF schemes, these were
- Balancing strategic needs against local concerns
 - Creating "Gateways" for our main town and urban centres
 - The acquisition/appropriation of land for highway purposes
 - The future use and management of the road-space of our key transport corridors; and
 - The environmental and economic benefits of greening up our key transport corridors (Green Streets).
- 2.7 On 22nd August 2017 Cabinet agreed to underwrite land acquisition costs until finance is subsequently secured from WY+TF and costs reimbursed. Because of this decision a rolling 'WY+TF Land Acquisition Fund' has been set up in the Council's Capital Plan.
- 2.8 On 17th December 2017 Cabinet received a scheme update together with an introduction to the Assurance Process (administered by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority) which all WY+TF schemes must follow.
- 2.9 On 13th November 2018 Cabinet received a further scheme update.

2.10 The Council declared a ‘climate emergency’ in January 2019 and subsequently set an ambitious ‘net zero’ carbon emissions target of 2038. These schemes will all contribute to improved environmental outcomes as follows

- a. A62 Leeds Road Smart Corridor – improving a longstanding area of congestion to improve traffic flow and delivering a ‘grey to green’ transformation by incorporating multi-functional green infrastructure improvements into the scheme design.
- b. Huddersfield Better Connected Stations Scheme – providing a safe, direct and attractive link between Huddersfield Bus and Rail station to improve connectivity for public transport users and help incentivise others to make more use of public transport.
- c. Cross Church Street – a new pedestrian and cycle zone to create a safer, more pleasant environment for users of the town centre”

2.11 Scheme Updates

A. **A62 Leeds Road Smart Corridor - Huddersfield (Corridor Improvement Package) CIP Phase 1**

Budget	£8,205,814 £7.352 million - West Yorkshire Combined Authority (West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund, administered by WYCA) PLUS £853,660 - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
Total received to date	£855,000
Assurance Process – Activity Stage	4

- i. Phase 1 of the corridor improvements starts at the junction of Huddersfield Ring Road / Southgate / Northumberland Street and ends at the junction of A62 / Old Fieldhouse Lane, a corridor length of approximately 2km.
- ii. The scheme will involve large scale modifications to the following junctions
 - Huddersfield Ring Road / Southgate / Northumberland Street.
 - Leeds Road / Lower Fitzwilliam Street / Gasworks Street.
 - Leeds Road / Bradley Mill Road / Barr Street.
 - Leeds Road / Thistle Street / Hillhouse Lane; and
 - Leeds Road / Old Fieldhouse Lane.
- iii. The scheme can be viewed online at www.kirklees.gov.uk/majorschemes
- iv. The scheme provides additional corridor vehicular capacity whilst also including improvements to both facilitate and encourage increased use by cyclists, public transport users and pedestrian users.
- v. The Scheme provides for nearly one hectare of new landscaping. It includes a comprehensive tree planting / landscape scheme, which includes “bee friendly” plants to encourage wildlife. This work is part of the

“Grey to Green Corridor”, funded by ERDF and incorporated into our highway scheme proposals. It’s aim is to remove areas of tarmac (grey) and replace with tree planting/ landscaping (green).

- vi. Public consultation of our proposals took place in November 2018. Our proposals were then exhibited at the Hudawi Centre in Huddersfield on 10 March 2020, with a longer non-staffed display held at Huddersfield Central Library. A total of 11 people attended the staffed exhibition. No negative comments were received.
- vii. A full planning application is to be submitted to the Local Planning Authority in September 2020. The application seeks permission for an additional access into Northern Retail Park as shown on plan <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/transport-roads-and-parking/pdf/A62-leeds-road-proposed-changes.pdf>
- viii. In order to facilitate the revised layout at the junction of Leeds Road / Lower Fitzwilliam Street / Gasworks Street, there will need to be an exchange of land between the Council and the owners of the Northern Retail Park. The owner of the Northern Retail Park has indicated that they are in principle in agreement with such a land exchange. The Council’s Strategic Assets are therefore now instructed to negotiate and agree the terms of the land exchange.
- ix. Any pre-commencement planning conditions will need to be discharged for works to start on site.
- x. Construction of the scheme is due to start in February 2021 if planning permission is granted, and the Council receives grant funding from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. WYCA. The scheme will be delivered by the Council’s Highways Construction service.

B. Huddersfield Better Connected Stations Scheme

Budget	£1.885m £1.550m (Department of Transport Transforming Cities Fund Early Wins Fund, administered by WYCA) Plus £0.335m (Kirklees Council - Town Centre Action Fund)
Total received to date	£0
Assurance Process – Activity Stage	5

- i. Delivery of the scheme which will lead to improved connectivity for pedestrians, cyclists and bus/rail users, including vulnerable users, by providing a safe, and attractive walking link between Huddersfield Bus and Rail Stations, together with a reduction in road traffic and congestion.
- ii. The scheme can be viewed online at www.kirklees.gov.uk/majorschemes

- iii. Consultation for Huddersfield Better Connected Stations scheme took place between 4th and 29th November 2019. During the consultation, the following activities were undertaken
- Proposals published on Your Voice online platform and promoted through social media
 - Residents, frontages and local businesses contacted via letter drop, advised of the proposals and on ways they can gain further information and comment on the schemes
 - Three drop-in events held at Huddersfield Bus and Rail Stations together with a display of the proposals
 - Questionnaires were handed out/completed at the events, as well as available online
- iv. The public consultation results were positive (by a significant majority) to the scheme as a whole and to each individual proposal shown on the consultation design plan and outlined in the consultation material.
- 71.4% of all responses were supportive of the set of general measures being proposed
 - 66.6% of all responses, on average, were supportive of specific measures being proposed and there was each individual specific measure received a majority support
 - 69.5% of the respondents agreed that the scheme would provide the listed benefits.
- v. Delivery on the scheme is due to commence in August 2020. The scheme will be delivered by the Council's Highways Construction service.

C. Cross Church Street, Huddersfield Scheme

Budget	£2,089,835 £1,290,925 - West Yorkshire Combined Authority (CityConnect - Department for Transport's Cycle City Ambition Grant, administered by WYCA) Plus £798,910 - Kirklees Council (Town Centre Action Fund)
Total received to date	£180,000
Assurance Process – Activity Stage	3

- i. Plans for improvements to Cross Church Street and Queen Street have been developed to enhance the town centres public space. Queen Street and King Street will see a new Pedestrian and Cycle Zone between the Lawrence Batley Theatre and Zetland Street prohibiting all motor vehicles

except for permit holders, and for loading between 6am and 10am and between 4pm and 8pm.

- ii. Cross Church Street will see a new Pedestrian and Cycle Zone between the Kingsgate Shopping Centre entrance and Kirkgate prohibiting all motor vehicles except for loading between 6am and 10am and between 4pm and 8pm.
- iii. These streets will allow cyclists to travel in both directions but the existing one-way arrangements for motor vehicles will remain.
- iv. The scheme can be viewed online at <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/transport-roads-and-parking/cross-church-street-queen-street-and-queensgate.aspx>
- v. Cross Church Street is one of the key objectives of the Huddersfield Blueprint. Cross Church Street supports the Blueprint by improving access to the new Cultural Heart, Kingsgate Shopping Centre and surrounding areas, through a focus on pedestrians and cyclists.
- vi. Stakeholder responses from business owners and campaign/user groups commended the aims and aspirations of the plans to create more pleasant environments within the town centre, and improved infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists. Business owners raised concerns about the vehicle access restrictions and the impact this would have on their viability due to disruptions for deliveries, customers and staff parking. These issues have been addressed in further individual enjoyment and consultation with businesses, and the scheme has been developed further to accommodate many of these concerns. Respondents who use bicycle as a transport mode did not see Cross Church Street as a cyclist thoroughfare, pedestrians rated their user experience as poor citing its appearance and condition amongst its deterrents.
- vii. The scheme is due to commence on site in August 2020. As the start date on site will be made before WYCA approval initial funding will be provided from the Town Centre Action Fund.
- viii. The scheme will be delivered by the Council's Highways Construction service.

3. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL

Working with People

- 3.1 One or more scheme specific public consultations have been held. For each scheme the Cabinet Portfolio, Ward Members and Key Stakeholders were consulted.
- 3.2 Comments received during the consultation have resulted in amendments being made to the scheme layouts to addresses some of the issues and concerns raised.

Working with Partners

- 3.3 The programme of major projects is being delivered in close partnership with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and others mentioned, specifically in this report.

Place Based Working

- 3.4 Our plans for Cross Church Street will make the most of the existing asset whilst seeking enhancement for the benefit of all. The quality of the built environment will be improved. The needs of businesses, shoppers and the travelling public have been considered in the

development of the scheme. The scheme prioritises people in an area where pedestrian volume is high and commercial activity is important. Vehicular traffic will be restricted whilst improving sustainable transport provision (increased cycling, walking and public transport patronage).

Climate Change and Air Quality

- 3.5 An objective of each of the projects is to improve air quality and have a positive impact on the environment. The A62 Smart Corridor, Better Connected Stations and Cross Church Street all include soft landscaping and planting. A reduction in congestion levels which will help improve air quality as will the emphasis on the use of sustainable transport. The A62 scheme includes close to one hectare of new landscaped area.
- 3.6 Poor air quality is a significant public health issue and poor environmental conditions have been created due to the high volumes of traffic and levels of congestion along the A62 corridor. In this respect, an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) has been declared in Huddersfield Town Centre, the extent of which reaches the ASCP through its boundary at Old Leeds Road.
- 3.7 The A62 scheme has the potential to have a two-fold beneficial impact on the environment – firstly the reduction in congestion and improvements to journey reliability would reduce the frequent stopping, idling and acceleration that generate the highest levels of emissions. Secondly, the provision of the Green Infrastructure and landscaping features across the three schemes will also help with natural air cooling, collecting nitrogen oxides and the absorption of carbon dioxide.

Improving outcomes for children

- 3.8 None

Financial

A62 Leeds Road Smart Corridor - Huddersfield (Corridor Improvement Package) CIP Phase 1

- 3.9 The outturn costs are £8,205,814 and an application has been made to the WYCA for £7.532m from the West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund and which is due to be determined by WYCA later this year.
- 3.10 In addition, £853,660 of European Regional Development funding was granted in March 2019.
- 3.11 The Final Business Case (FBC - Activity 4) was approved by Investment Committee on 20/5/2020. Development of the scheme is now working towards Activity 5 (Full Business Case plus Costs) which determines the actual cost to get it built.
- 3.12 Formal approval of our FBC has released £1.599m of funding to progress the project to Full Business Case plus Costs (Activity 5).
- 3.13 In accordance with the Assurance Process a Grant Funding Agreement has now been agreed between the CA and Kirklees Council for the £1.599m. In accordance with the Governance Process approval to accept this grant will be sought from the Chief Finance Officer and the Strategic Director Economy and Infrastructure.

Huddersfield Better Connected Stations Scheme

- 3.14 The Final Business Case + Costs was submitted to the Combined Authority in April 2020 and approved by Ben Still, Combined Authority Managing Director on the 19th June 2020.
- 3.15 This approval allowed for the 'Better Connected Stations' project to proceed through Decision point 5 and for work to commence on Activity 6 (Delivery).
- 3.16 The Combined Authority's contribution of £1.550 million has been secured. The total project value is £1.885 million. The Combined Authority will now enter into a Funding Agreement with Kirklees

Council for expenditure of up to £1.550. In accordance with the Governance Process approval to accept this grant will be sought from the Chief Finance Officer and the Strategic Director Economy and Infrastructure.

- 3.17 Kirklees Council are contributing £0.335m to the overall scheme budget from the Town Centre Action Fund.

Cross Church Street, Huddersfield Scheme

- 3.18 The Outline Business Case (Activity 3) was submitted to the Combined Authority in April 2020 and approved by the Combined Authority on 25 June 2020.
- 3.19 This Decision Point Approval allowed for the 'Cross Church Street' project to proceed directly through to Activity Point 5 in order to hasten delivery.
- 3.20 Formal approval of our OBC has released additional funding to progress the project to Full Business Case plus Costs (Activity 5). In accordance with the Governance Process approval to accept this grant will be sought from the Chief Finance Officer and the Strategic Director Economy and Infrastructure.
- 3.21 The Final Business Case plus Costs is due to be submitted to the Combined Authority in October 2020.

Legal

- 3.22 The Council has the statutory power to carry out these Schemes under the Highways Act 1980.
- 3.23 The Council has the statutory power to enter into grant agreements with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.
- 3.24 The Council has the statutory power to acquire land for Highway purposes and to dispose of land to the owner of the Great Northern Retail Park as part of the land swap.

4. CONSULTEES AND THEIR OPINIONS

- 4.1 All three schemes have been consulted with people about the proposals and recommendations.

A62 Leeds Road Smart Corridor - Huddersfield (Corridor Improvement Package) CIP Phase 1

- 4.2 Throughout the process of developing A62 Leeds Road Smart Corridor - Huddersfield (Corridor Improvement Package) CIP Phase 1 Cllr Peter McBride (Regeneration), Cllr Naheed Mather (Greener Kirklees) have been briefed. The lead members have been supportive of the objectives and design iterations throughout the development process.
- 4.3 The ward members for Dalton Ward (Cllr Musarrat Khan, Cllr Naheed Mather and Cllr Peter McBride) in which the scheme falls have been briefed prior to and following public consultation. No comments were received.

Huddersfield Better Connected Stations

- 4.4 Significant dialogue has taken place with business users including Hackney Carriages. Cllr Mohan Sokhal led the discussion with trade representatives, as a result changes were made to scheme layouts.
- 4.5 Throughout the process of developing the Huddersfield Better Connected Stations scheme, the three relevant lead members/Portfolio Holders have been briefed, being Cllr Peter McBride (Regeneration), Cllr Naheed Mather (Greener Kirklees) and Cllr Rob Walker (Culture & Environment). The lead members have been supportive of the objectives and design iterations throughout the development process.

- 4.6 The ward members for Newsome Ward (Cllr Karen Allison, Cllr Andrew Cooper, Cllr Susan Lee-Richards) in which the scheme falls have been briefed prior to and following public consultation. No comments were received.

Cross Church Street, Huddersfield Scheme

- 4.7 Throughout the process of developing the Huddersfield Better Connected Stations scheme, the three relevant lead members/Portfolio Holders have been briefed, being Cllr Peter McBride (Regeneration), Cllr Naheed Mather (Greener Kirklees) and Cllr Rob Walker (Culture & Environment). The lead members have been supportive of the objectives and design iterations throughout the development process.
- 4.8 The ward members for Newsome Ward (Cllr Karen Allison, Cllr Andrew Cooper, Cllr Susan Lee-Richards) in which the scheme falls have been briefed prior to and following public consultation. No comments were received.
- 4.9 Legal, Finance and Human Resources have been consulted.

5. NEXT STEPS

A62 Smart Corridor

- 5.1 Submit planning application in respect of land at Northern Retail Park September 2020.
- 5.2 Submit Full Business Case plus Costs (FBC+) to WYCA for approval in October 2020.
- 5.3 Subject to FBC+ approval and the grant of planning permission, on site construction to commence in February 2021.

Better Connected Stations

- 5.4 On site construction to commence in August 2020.

Cross Church Street

- 5.5 On site construction to commence in August 2020.
- 5.6 It will be necessary for the Council to make in due course Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) to enable each scheme to proceed. For TROs to be made it will be necessary for the Council to carry out statutory consultations. Under the Council scheme of delegations, Karl Battersby Strategic Director Economy and Infrastructure has the authority for TROs to be made. Subject to there being any unresolved objections it will be necessary for Cabinet to consider these objections to consider as to whether the relevant order should be made.

6. OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS AND REASONS

A62 Leeds Road Smart Corridor - Huddersfield (Corridor Improvement Package) CIP Phase 1

Officers recommend that Cabinet

- 6.1 Approves the Council applying for planning permission for the A62 Smart Corridor Scheme.
- 6.2 Authorises the Council to accept and enter into any agreement with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority for the funding of the A62 Smart Corridor Scheme.
- 6.3 Approves the acquisition from the owner of the Great Northern Retail Park of the parcels of land that are required in order to be able to deliver the A62 Smart Corridor Scheme and the disposal of the parcels of land to the owner of the Great Northern Retail Park in exchange.
- 6.4 Approves the carrying out and implementation of the A62 Smart Corridor Scheme as long as the Council's application to the local planning authority for planning permission is granted, the Council's application to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority for funding of £7.352m for the

Scheme is successful and the necessary land is acquired from the owner of the Great Northern Retail Park.

- 6.5 Delegates to the Strategic Director Economy and Infrastructure the authority to negotiate and agree the terms of any agreements that may necessary to carry out the A62 Smart Corridors Scheme including the terms of funding agreement referred to in paragraph 6.2 and the land acquisition and disposal referred to in paragraph 6.3.
- 6.6 Delegates authority to the Service Director – Legal Governance & Commissioning to enter into any transfer of land in relation to the exchange with the owner of Great Northern Retail Park, grant agreement with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority for the funding of the A62 Smart Corridor Scheme and any other relevant agreements and documents to which the Council is party.

Officers make these recommendations in respect of the A62 Smart Corridor scheme because the Scheme when completed will lead to improved journey times, reduction congestion and promote greener forms of travel.

Huddersfield Better Connected Stations

Officers recommend that Cabinet

- 6.7 Authorises the Council to accept and enter into any agreement with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority for the funding of the Huddersfield Better Connected Stations Scheme.
- 6.8 Approve the inclusion of Huddersfield Better Connected Stations with a budget provision of £1.885m into the Kirklees Capital Plan.
- 6.9 Approves the carrying out and implementation of the Huddersfield Better Connected Stations Scheme.
- 6.10 Delegates to the Strategic Director Economy and Infrastructure the authority to negotiate and agree the terms of any agreements that may be necessary to carry out the Huddersfield Better Connected Stations Scheme including the funding agreement with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority in paragraph 6.7.
- 6.11 Delegates authority to the Service Director – Legal Governance & Commissioning to enter into the grant agreement with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority for the funding of the Huddersfield Better Connected Stations Scheme and any other relevant agreements and documents to which the Council is party.

Officers make these recommendations in respect of the Huddersfield Better Connected Stations Scheme because the scheme when completed will promote greater use of greener forms of travel through greater connectivity.

Cross Church Street Scheme

Officers recommend that Cabinet:

- 6.12 Authorises the Council to accept and enter into any agreement with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority for the funding of the Cross Church Street Scheme.
- 6.13 Approves the Council carrying out and implementation of the Cross Church Street Scheme as long as the Council's application to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority for £1,290,925 funding is successful.
- 6.14 Delegates to the Strategic Director Economy and Infrastructure the authority to negotiate and agree the terms of any agreements that may be necessary to carry out the Cross Church Street Scheme including the funding agreement with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority in paragraph 6.11.

- 6.15 Delegates authority to the Service Director – Legal Governance & Commissioning to enter into the grant agreement with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority for the funding of the Cross Church Scheme and any other relevant agreements and documents to which the Council is party.

Officers make these recommendations in respect of the Cross Church Street Scheme because the scheme when completed will enhance the town centre public space and promote cycling.

7. CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Cllr Peter McBride is in favour of the schemes. "The key to making sure everyone can benefit from this vision is making travel and access equally as ambitious and fit for the future. The regeneration plans we have will see more housing and employment opportunities come to Huddersfield and we must make sure our road network is ready for any additional traffic that might bring. These schemes will help us to do just that, by reducing congestion and improving travel time in the area. We also have a commitment to address climate change and need to do all we can to support and encourage greener forms of travel. If we are to do this, we must make sure pedestrians and cyclists feel safe. A reduction in congestion and more people travelling in a greener way will also help us to improve air quality in this area."

8. CONTACT OFFICER

- 8.1 Keith Bloomfield – Strategic Lead (Major Projects) – keith.bloomfield@kirklees.gov.uk

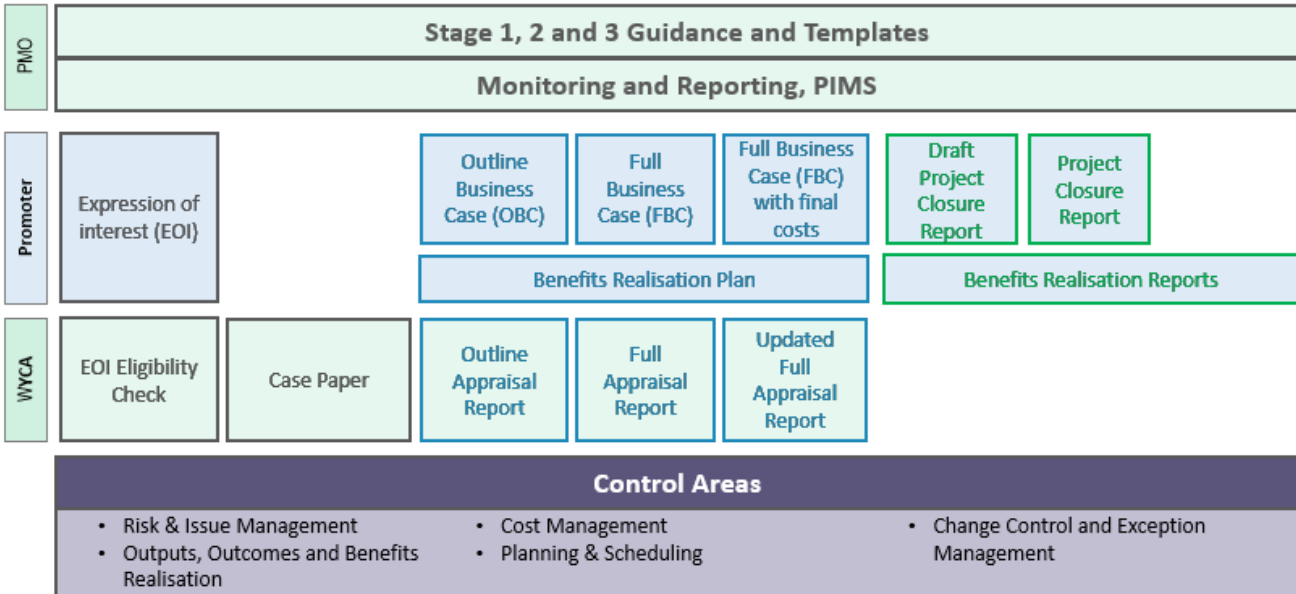
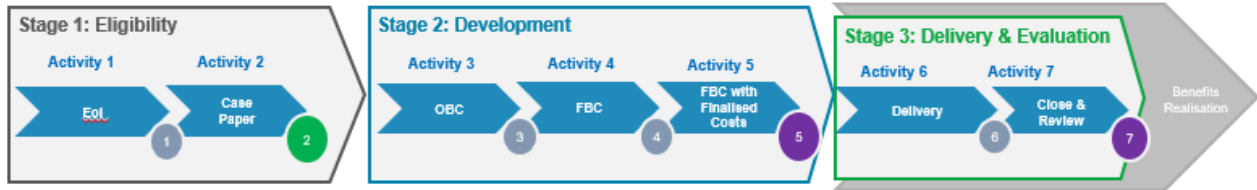
9. BACKGROUND PAPERS AND HISTORY OF DECISIONS

- i. West Yorkshire Transport Fund - Scheme Principles (9 February 2016)
- ii. Land Acquisition Costs (22 August 2017)
- iii. WY+TF Schemes Update (13 November 2018)

10. SERVICE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE

- i. Karl Battersby Strategic Director Economy and Infrastructure
- ii. Angela Blake Director for Economy and Skills

WYCA ASSURANCE PROCESS



KEY: ● Decision Point ● Key Decision Point (IC/CA Approval Required) ● Key Decision Point