

Greater Manchester Levelling Up Fund Bid

Atherton, Tyldesley and Leigh are a significant part of Greater Manchester's Levelling Up Fund Bid submitted by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority under the Levelling Up Fund's local transport projects theme.

As well as in Wigan Borough, the bid also includes proposals in Salford, Manchester and Stockport.

Proposals

Wigan Council has been developing walking and cycling plans for Leigh, Atherton and Tyldesley some time and secured funding from Mayors Challenge Fund (MCF).

However, our ambitions for improved active travel options are greater than the current MCF programme allows, so the GM LUF bid provides Wigan Council with the opportunity to deliver more.

Our scheme focuses on additional links to extend the MCF network, including:

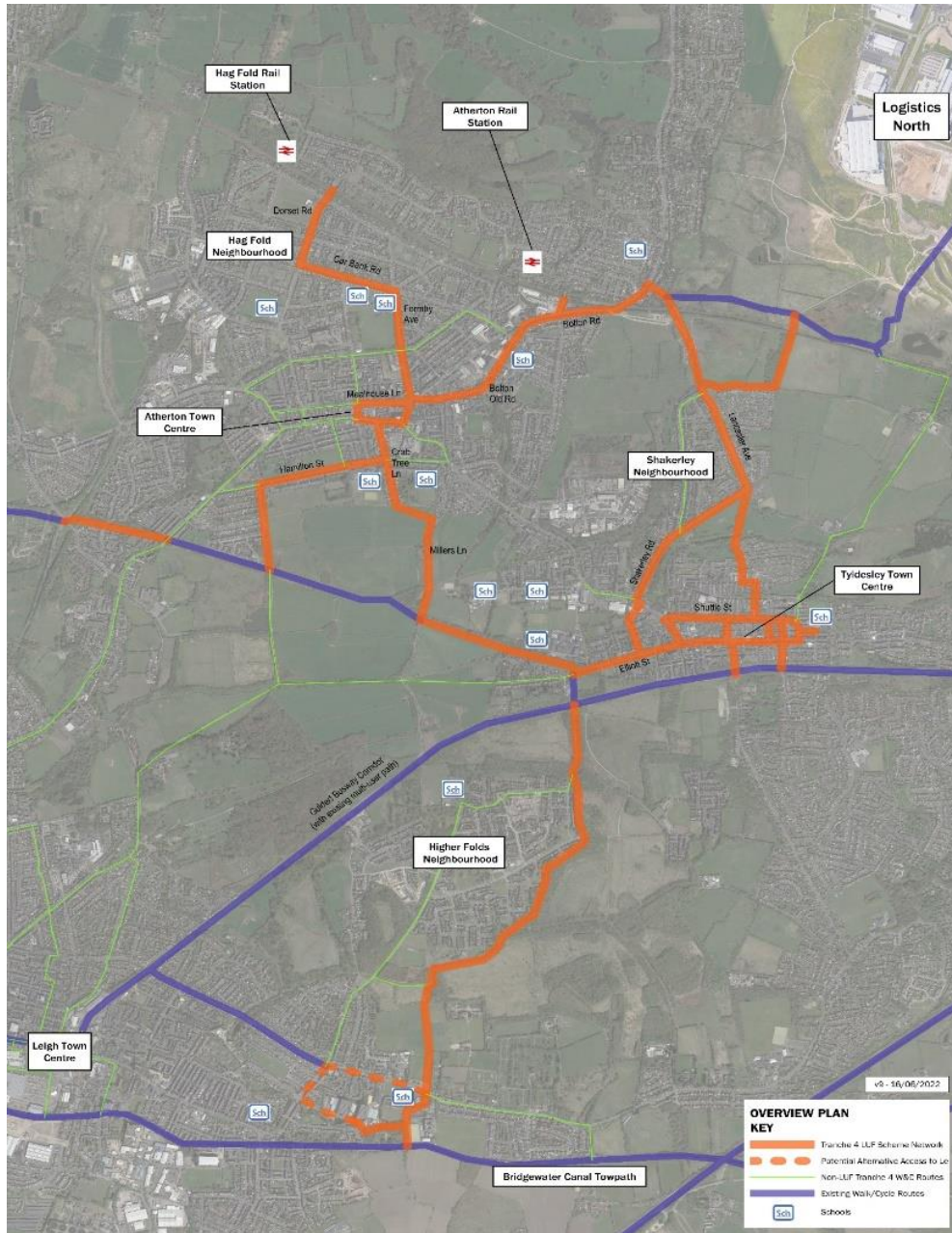
- Routes linking Atherton to Hag Fold and Atherton train stations, with links to the Logistics North site via Engine Lane.
- Routes from Tyldesley to Atherton Station, via Shakerley, to Logistics North.
- Routes from Tyldesley to Leigh via a connecting route through Higher Folds and on to Leigh Spinners Mill, which is becoming a hub for active travel in the east of the borough.

The connection to Leigh will also link to the Market Place route which has been submitted as part of the council's Leigh LUF bid. This will provide a cohesive active travel route into the town centre and improved civic square.

Opportunities and benefits

- Connect Hag Fold, Shakerley and Higher Folds with the key employment opportunities at Logistics North and Leigh town centre.
- Connect these communities to the wider sustainable transport network.
- Through providing a safe and attractive alternative to the car:
 - Improving air quality
 - Reducing congestion
 - Improving health and wellbeing
 - Providing quick and affordable access to vital local facilities.

The current projected cost is around £17 million, subject to final decisions on the treatments required on junctions along the route. This is roughly one-third of the maximum bid value allowed for consortium bids of £50 million.



Proposed Programme

If the bid is successful, the estimated timescales are:

2022/2023:

- Consultations with key stakeholders, the public and those potentially affected by the proposals.
- Commence preparation of detailed designs and contract documents
- Commence planning and legal processes

2023/2024:

- Commence delivery

2024/2025:

- Continue delivery with completion by March 2025