

Meeting:	JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
Date:	9 December 2016
From:	Joint Officer Steering Group

Transport Update

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides the Committee with an update on the transport related issues across the Greater Nottingham conurbation. The report provides an update on the East Midlands Rail Franchise process, HS2 phase 2 line of route announcement, Midland Mainline Electrification, DEFRA Air Quality Grant Bid 2017/18 and the Autumn Statement.

2 BACKGROUND

East Midlands Rail Franchise Prospectus

- 2.1 On 16 November the Government published the East Midlands Rail Franchise Prospectus setting out the DfT's initial aspirations as the first stage in the refranchising process. It informs potential bidders interested in the franchise competition of the process with early guidance. A public consultation is due to commence in December for 12 weeks and its contents will contribute to the specification for passenger services for the East Midlands in due course.
- 2.2 East Midlands Councils (EMC) with the support of both authorities has employed David Young of SCP consultancy to coordinate a response on behalf of the East Midlands and to work with the DfT on the franchise process. A paper is currently being put together to take on board the key issues which will be reported through EMC Executive Board for approval.

Midland Mainline Electrification

- 2.3 The programme of electrification of the Midland Mainline has been thrown into doubt following a statement made by Paul Maynard MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport, in the Midland Mainline Electrification Debate on 7th November 2016 and the shelving of four sections of electrification in the South West, including to Bath and Bristol.
- 2.4 The Rail Minister told Parliament, that the decisions are being made to ensure value for money for the tax payer, and a better experience for the passenger. He did say that the Government will deliver electrification from London to Kettering and Corby by 2019 and that development work is continuing on further electrification of the route to Sheffield and Nottingham but refused to be drawn on any timetable for electrification to Nottingham and Sheffield which following a previous 'pause' was programmed for 2023.
- 2.5 The timing is critical because decisions on new rolling stock for the next East Midlands Rail franchise need to be made now as the HST stock is now life expired and too expensive to refurbish. There is also a strong linkage between Midland Mainline electrification and HS2 in that it unlocks the ability to run classic compatible services into Nottingham City Centre once the HS2 Eastern leg has been built.

2.6 In conclusion although no formal announcement has yet been made on whether electrification beyond Kettering and Corby will still go ahead, given what has happened elsewhere and the lack of commitment to the previously stated timetable, the Government's commitment to the ongoing roll out of electrification is in considerable doubt.

High Speed Two update

2.7 The Government has announced its preferred route for the next phase of High Speed Two. This is the section from Crewe to Manchester and the West Midlands to Leeds, known as Phase 2b. The preferred route is the line the Government believes the new high speed railway should take.

2.8 The Government has also launched two consultations: A consultation on route refinements: There are changes to the route proposed in 2013. Where these changes are substantial, the Government is seeking views from those affected before taking a decision. A consultation on property schemes: The Government are committed to providing property compensation to those affected. The property compensation and assistance scheme consultation is available for comment by homeowners and businesses affected by the plans. Both consultations will run until 9 March 2017.

2.9 In addition Safeguarding Directions have been issued to protect planned infrastructure from conflicting development. The Safeguarding Directions have been issued for the entire Phase 2b route.

DEFRA Air Quality Grant Bid 2017/18

2.10 On 23 November 2016 the City Council submitted a £200,000 joint application to the DEFRA Air Quality Grant 2017/18. The Ultra Low Emission Fleets bid seeks revenue funding to support the Go Ultra Low Nottingham capital programme to provide funding to support the health sector and other local businesses to transition their fleets to zero and low emission. The project will fund a business transport review comprising a fleet review; develop an action plan by providing events, promotions and myth-busting information and monitoring the financial and environmental benefits of clean vehicles. The project is primarily aimed at supporting the health sector in readiness for the Clean Air Zone by 2020. The funding bid was submitted on behalf of Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Ashfield District Council, and the boroughs of Broxtowe, Gedling, and Rushcliffe. The announcement is expected in January 2017 with funding to be spent by March 2018.

Autumn Statement

2.11 The Autumn Statement was announced by Philip Hammond MP on 23 November 2016. The announcement included a significant increase in investment for UK infrastructure including for local authority roads.

2.12 The Government will be investing an additional £1.1 billion in local roads and local transport. Funding will be focused on maintenance, relieving congestion and delivering important upgrades. It is also providing a further £390 million in support for transport technology of the future that includes charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, low emission buses and taxis and new connected and autonomous vehicles. It made announcements on major transport projects and strategic roads studies (none in D2N2).

£150 million has been allocated to improve transport flood resilience. £80 million is being allocated to accelerate the rollout of smart ticketing. £5 million has been allocated for development funding for the Midlands Rail Hub in Birmingham.

3 RECOMMENDATION(S)

3.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of this report.

4 BACKGROUND PAPERS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

- 4.1 East Midlands Rail Franchise Prospectus, November 2016
High Speed Two, Phase 2b: Crewe to Manchester and West Midlands to Leeds route announcement, November 2016
DEFRA Air Quality Grant Bid 2017/18 guidance, October 2016

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