

Meeting:	JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
Date:	16 th June 2017
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 Revised Air Quality Plan, Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy, NPIF Funding Bid Opportunity, Midlands Connect Published Strategy and the East Midlands Rail Franchise.

2 BACKGROUND

Revised Air Quality Plan

- 2.1 On the 5th May 2017, Central Government published the revised draft Air Quality Strategy as a result of a legal challenge which ruled the previous air quality strategy published in December 2015 as being insufficient.
- 2.2 Nottingham was considered one of the original six areas that were in breaches in air quality to consider implementing a clean air zone. The new plan extends this to 42 areas including Nottingham, highlighted as expected to be in exceedance by 2020 based on current forecasts.
- 2.3 The government has indicated that its preferred approach is the adoption of Clean Air Zones by Local Authorities – however, the report does not designate these zones directly, but instead indicates that the Local Authority must decide on the extent and measures put in place to ensure compliance “as soon as possible”. A designated Clean Air Zone can take two forms: A non-chargeable zone and a chargeable zone, and they are for local authorities to decide on the type of zone required.
- 2.4 Central government is consulting on the potential introduction of a scrappage scheme for diesel vehicles within the draft strategy although it indicates a low value for money case.

Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy

- 2.5 On the 21st April 2017, the Department for Transport published a Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy. This document outlines the government’s ambition to make cycling and walking a natural choice for shorter journeys or as part of longer journeys by 2040. Whilst funding was identified within the strategy, no new funding has been made available through this programme, instead indicating use of Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Block Funding and the Local Growth Fund.
- 2.6 Local Authorities however, have been tasked with the production of a Local Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy in response to this national strategy.

National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF) 2018-20 Funding Bid opportunity

- 2.7 On the 6th April 2017, the Department for Transport announced further details relating to the National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF) in future funding years of 2018/19 and 2019/20, following the allocation of funding to local authorities in 2017/18. Over 2018/19 and 2019/20, a further £490million nationally is being made available for funding local

transport improvements targeted towards tackling local congestion, unlocking economic growth and job creation opportunities or to support the delivery of housing development.

- 2.8 Funding for 2018/19 and 2019/20 are to be provided on a competitive bidding process. The bid documentation has been released, with bids to be submitted by local authorities required no later than the 30th June 2017.

Midlands Connect Published Strategy

- 2.9 Midlands Connect have now published a Transport Strategy for the Midlands. This sets out aspirations for journey time reductions for strategic road and rail links between key locations across the East and West Midlands, and proposes strategic transport projects to enable these aspirations to be met. The strategy has been published on the Midlands Connect website.

East Midlands Rail Franchise Update

- 2.10 Three companies have been shortlisted for the renewal of the East Midlands Rail Franchise: Arriva, First/Trenitalia and Stagecoach (the current holder). A consultation on the proposed specification for the new franchise has been deferred due to the General Election.

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 DfT Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy, April 2017.
Joint Air Quality Unit Draft Air Quality Strategy, May 2017.
DfT NPIF for the Local Road Network – Bid Guidance, April 2017.
Midlands Connect Strategy: Powering the Midlands Engine, March 2017.

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