

Meeting: **JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND  
TRANSPORT**

Date: **SEPTEMBER 2011**                      Agenda item number:

From: **JOINT OFFICERS STEERING GROUP**

## **TRANSPORT ISSUES UPDATE**

### **Purpose of report**

1. To update the Committee on key transport issues for the Greater Nottingham Local Transport Plan (LTP) area.

### **Local Sustainable Transport Fund**

2. In January the Government announced the details of a £560 million Local Sustainable Transport Fund over the four year period 2011/12 to 2014/15 (60% revenue and 40% capital funding) for packages of transport measures that support economic growth and reduce carbon in their communities.
3. The City Council led the preparation of a Nottingham Urban Area Tranche One key component bid that was submitted in April followed by a £11million Main Large Scale Bid Expression of Interest in June.
4. These bids have been developed in partnership with the Greater Nottingham Transport Partnership, Sustrans, NHS Nottingham City, Nottinghamshire County Council and Derbyshire County Council.
5. On 5th July the Secretary of State for Transport, announced £4.925 million for Nottingham's Key Component bid (100% of the bid) which has secured funding for smart ticketing improvements, business travel support, continuing partnership working to promote cycling and piloting a community smarter travel hub.
6. On 3rd August the Department for Transport (DfT) announced that the Nottingham Urban Area Local Sustainable Transport Fund Main Bid had been successful in getting to the next stage. This is the only large scale bid in the East Midlands and one of eight nationally to have been invited to submit a full business case along with a further five invited to submit a revised business cases.

7. If successful the Main Bid would build on the Key Component work programme and secure up to £10.82 million of further funding for 2012/13 – 2014/15 to deliver an integrated package of measures to influence people's travel behaviour at key transition points through six complementary work packages:
  - **Smartcard support:** Additional funding for targeted groups including further education students;
  - **Establish a network of Smarter Travel Hubs** for local delivery of sustainable travel solutions across the urban area;
  - **Small scale neighbourhood improvements** to create the physical environment to support low carbon travel choices by improving links to public transport and investment in cycle infrastructure;
  - **Active Travel Solutions** to provide activities and services for children, families and schools to encourage more walking and cycling including cycle training and associated services and a programme of community and area-wide events;
  - **Developing the low carbon transport network** to increase the uptake of electric vehicles for fleet and public transport and support greener driving;
  - **Personalised Travel Planning** to improve social inclusion and support low income and vulnerable groups.
  
8. The bid partnership is now invited to prepare a Full Business Case for the Main Bid by 20th December 2011 for a decision in summer 2012. An inception meeting took place with the DfT at the end of August to agree the scope of the Business Case.

### **Local Authority Major Schemes**

9. Following the Comprehensive Spending Review in 2010, the local authority major schemes being promoted by Nottingham City (Ring Road Major) and Nottinghamshire County Council (Hucknall Town Centre Improvements Scheme) were placed into a 'Development Pool' competing nationally for funding. Development pool schemes are those for which the DfT have completed a value for money assessment in the last four years, but where there is a need to re-examine the business case of each scheme before any final decisions are made.
  
10. In January 2011, the City and County Councils submitted initial Expressions of Interest (EOI) confirming the Councils' desire to take the schemes forward. Following discussions with the DfT it was made clear that for schemes to stand the best chance of progressing promoters should reduce scheme costs significantly, increase the level of local financial contribution and demonstrate continued good value for money outcomes.

11. The Nottingham Ring Road Scheme comprises of improvements that will deliver congestion benefits and improvements for cyclists and pedestrians. Following the DfT's feedback a reduced scheme has been identified which excludes certain elements of the original scheme whilst delivering a large proportion of the scheme benefits. An exercise to gather evidence of continued support for the scheme has been undertaken involving a range of partners, businesses and members of the public.
12. The Hucknall Town Centre Improvements Scheme has been developed to support the regeneration of Hucknall town centre.
13. Best and Final Bids were submitted on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2011. A 'programme entry' decision is expected by the end of the year.

#### **A453 (M1 to Nottingham) widening scheme**

14. The County Council, other local authorities and businesses are continuing to campaign for this key strategic infrastructure which has the potential to unlock huge economic benefits in Nottinghamshire. The County Council has recently led a high level delegation to with the DfT to discuss the prospects of advancing the A453 into the trunk road programme for construction before 2015. The County Council have offered £20million local contribution to support the scheme and a formal response to the offer is still awaited.

#### **Nottingham Express Transit Phase Two**

15. Funding for two more lines of the tram comprising NET Phase Two was confirmed by Government in March 2011 albeit with a reduced Government funding contribution. Following this announcement, the Tramlink Nottingham consortium was appointed as preferred bidder for the scheme.
16. Work is progressing towards a contract being let in early autumn 2011. Construction work would start in the autumn and due to be completed by 2014.

#### **Recommendation**

17. It is recommended that the Committee note the content of this report.

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