

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

Date: **21 MARCH 2014** Agenda item number:

From: **JOINT OFFICERS STEERING GROUP**

TRANSPORT ISSUES UPDATE

Purpose of report

1. To update the Committee on key sustainable transport issues for the Greater Nottingham area.

Local Authority Infrastructure Schemes

2. The Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire (D2N2) LEP published its Consultation Draft Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) in December 2013. The SEP sets out the proposals for raising growth rates in the D2N2 area, creating increased prosperity and higher levels of employment. The SEP includes proposals for the use of Local Growth Funds (LGF), but its coverage goes far beyond LGF to bring together the plans of all local partners and stakeholders to support growth in the D2N2 area. The Strategic Economic Plan takes forward the plans set out in our Strategy for Growth 2013-2023. The vision is that D2N2 will become a more prosperous, better connected, and increasingly resilient and competitive economy, at the heart of the UK economy, making a leading contribution to the UK's advanced manufacturing and health and bioscience sectors and generating significant export earnings for UK plc. The Plan set out one single target – to support the creation of an additional 55,000 jobs in D2N2 by 2023.
3. As part of the development of the SEP, the D2N2 LEP has invited proposals for infrastructure schemes that will support or unlock sustainable economic growth in the area for consideration within the SEP. This will include broadband, energy, water, supply, drainage, flood defence, site remediation, green infrastructure and transport schemes.

For input into the final SEP the LEP are looking to identify infrastructure schemes that will help to:

- **Unlock creation of new jobs** through delivery of employment growth areas, with interventions to address flood risk, ensure utility provision and

address access to maximise the attractiveness of each site, particularly to growing businesses in the D2N2 priority sectors

- **Accelerate completion of new housing** to support growth, focusing on green infrastructure and multi-modal solutions to encourage sustainable travel and mitigate the effects of additional travel in these fast-growing areas
 - **Support regeneration in targeted areas** including interventions to address flood risk, provide green infrastructure and improve access to unlock challenging sites
 - **Enhance the roles of the market towns** (to meet the needs of their rural hinterlands and fulfil their wider roles), capitalise on the quality of the natural environment and tackle isolation in rural areas, including tackling accessibility and broadband cold spots
 - **Provide resilient and efficient transport networks** to support business competitiveness, unlock city growth, address people's accessibility needs and enhance the quality of our places.
4. An initial programme of schemes was considered by the D2N2 Local Transport Board on 4th March. The deadline for final submission of the SEP is 31st March.

Local Sustainable Transport Fund 2011 – 2015

5. Good progress continues to be made with delivery of the programme. Key highlights under each of the main workstrands is set out below:

Smartcard development and integrated ticketing:

- Linked to funding secured through the City Deal process, the Job Seekers Kangaroo Citycard travel support scheme, delivered in partnership with Jobcentre Plus, began in April 2013 offering half price travel for job seekers and long term unemployed. The scheme is nearing the end of its first year trial period and a full evaluation is underway. There have been 5,000 beneficiaries to date and initial results indicate that the scheme has been very successful compared to similar initiatives available elsewhere.
- Work to establish a smartcard retail network across the conurbation is on track for completion in 2014. An order for nearly 100 ticket vending machines has been placed with four locations to be trialled in February with roll out to NET platforms, city centre bus stops, local centres and key locations across the conurbation by July 2014. A network of Payzone outlets at 175 shops is also in progress for late summer and a new Kangaroo website is in development.

Community Smarter Travel Hubs:

- Grants have been awarded to GNTP-RideWise Ltd. and Sustrans to provide a further four Neighbourhood Smarter Travel Coordinators (NSTCs) for City Central and South localities and in Broxtowe and Gedling. The four new NSTCs were all in post by September and have undertaken a range of

community engagement activities to inform the preparation of local intervention programmes.

- Implementation of a programme of 20mph limits to improve safety and to create attractive walking and cycling environments is proceeding within the city and plans are underway to introduce 20mph limits outside schools in the County area in 2014/15.

WorkSmart

- The work of the Greater Nottingham Transport Partnership (GNTP) continues to support local businesses with sustainable travel guidance working with over 40 businesses in the last quarter.
- 20 electric buses to be used on a number of Localink services operating across the conurbation have been delivered and will be operational in 2014/15. A funding bid through the DfT's Green Bus Fund Round 4 was also successful and a further 15 electric buses will be procured for use on the 'work based' link services including Citylink 1 and 2. With all electric buses in place by late 2015, the Linkbus network will be the largest electric fleet in Europe.
- The Gedling ECO Stars scheme was extended across the urban area in March 2013 and has now supported 50 organisations with free guidance and advice on fleet management practices and eco-driving skills.
- The tender for the development of a Car Club has been concluded with City Car Club selected as the preferred supplier. Discussions are underway to launch the scheme with the first vehicles available from city centre on-street locations from April 2014 with a view to expanding the locations and vehicles over the next 3 years.

Active travel partnerships

- The Ucycle Nottingham project at the University of Nottingham, Nottingham University Hospital Trust, New College Nottingham, Central (South Notts) College and Bilborough College is continuing to deliver increased cycling levels.
- The active travel events programme for 2014 is being planned starting with activities for the annual Nottingham Light Night on 28th February, and preparation for Cycle Live on 21st/22nd June 2014.

Local Sustainable Transport Fund 2015 – 2016 funding update

6. The Department for Transport (DfT) has announced £78.5 million in revenue funding for 2015/16 for new and/or extended Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) projects and Bikeability training of which around £64 million is likely to be available for the LSTF programme.
7. Following preliminary discussions with partners through the LSTF Steering Group, the City Council is preparing a continuation partnership bid for the Nottingham Urban Area on the following basis:

- **Overarching theme:** Access to employment, skills and learning, primarily targeted at young people to support local economic development and skills in the urban area to complement the City's £3 million Youth Contract programme.
 - **Continuing delivery of existing successful LSTF projects focusing on 2 areas:**
 - a. Core offer of travel support packages for low income groups including jobseeker and further education smartcard offers delivered through a community based approach to the promotion of travel options to individuals and households through the Community Smarter Travel Hubs e.g. personalised journey planning and cycling support, and
 - b. Continuation of the Worksmart business travel support package for employers to support sustainable commuting and inward investment opportunities.
 - **Coverage:** Nottingham Urban Area as per the current LSTF programme
 - **Scale of bid:** Up to £1.5 million revenue funding for a joint bid comprising £1 million for the City area and additional funding for the wider urban area to be negotiated with Nottinghamshire County Council and excluding local funding contributions.
 - **Linked to secured and proposed major capital investment** such as NET Phase 2, Local Transport Plan investment and other non-transport programmes e.g. the Enterprise Zone.
8. In order to develop the bid the views and suggestions of the Board are invited. The submission deadline is 31st March 2014.

Recommendation

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

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