

Meeting:	JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
Date:	8 December 2017
From:	Joint Officer Steering Group

Transport Update

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 National Productivity Investment Fund announcement, Transport Funding Bids, Rail Funding, East Midlands Franchise Consultation, Accessibility Action Plan and Autumn 2017 Budget.

2 BACKGROUND

National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF) Announcement

- 2.1 On 19 October 2017, central government announced that 76 projects had been successful in bids to the NPIF programme, as part of a £244million package nationally from the £490million fund for local roads. The £2.4million bid for Contactless and Mobile Public Transport Ticketing across the Robin Hood area, which Nottingham City Council submitted was successful in this announcement.

Transport Funding Bids Update

- 2.2 On 4 July 2017, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) announced a funding bid for the Housing Infrastructure Fund, with £2.3billion being made available to local authorities to provide infrastructure to support housing sites. Funding is split into two funding streams: the Housing Viability fund and the Forward Planning Fund. Bids to the viability fund and expressions of interest to the forward planning fund were submitted by 28 September 2017.
- 2.3 The Housing Viability Fund was only open to single or lower tier authorities. Nottingham City Council provided a bid relating to housing sites in the north of the City, which included a package of transport measures including improvements to junctions on Hucknall Road and Oxclose Lane to support these sites. Ashfield, Gedling and Rushcliffe Councils submitted separate bids relating to site remediation and additional infrastructure requirements to open up individual sites within their respective districts.
- 2.4 The Housing Forward Fund was only open to single or upper tier authorities. Nottinghamshire County Council coordinated a large scale HS2 Growth Strategy expression of interest to support an innovation campus at Toton which was submitted on behalf of the entire D2N2 area, supported by all four upper tier authorities.
- 2.5 An announcement relating to these funding bids is anticipated sometime within Autumn 2017.

Rail Funding: Statement of Funds Available

- 2.6 On 12 October 2017, the Department for Transport provided a statement regarding the future rail investment envelope for 2019-2024, as part of Control Period six.
- 2.7 The funding being made available across these five years equates to £47.9 billion of funding, which is made up of Network grant of £34.7 billion, and £13.2 billion from Network Rail income. This funding includes track maintenance, station improvements, and rail enhancements.
- 2.8 Central Government has determined that rail enhancements will be announced separate to track maintenance and renewals going forward.

East Midlands Rail Franchise Consultation

- 2.9 The consultation for the proposed franchise closed on 11 October 2017.
- 2.10 Both Councils responded to the consultation consistent with the response prepared and agreed by East Midlands Councils.

Accessibility Action Plan

- 2.11 On 24 August 2017, the Government launched a consultation regarding a draft accessibility action plan which sets out proposals to improve the travel experience for people with disabilities. The action plan covers aviation, rail, buses and taxis. The document also considers ways that we can improve public spaces to make it more accessible for people with disabilities.
- 2.12 The deadline for this consultation closed on 14 November.

Autumn 2017 Budget Announcements

- 2.13 The Autumn Budget statement was announced 22 November 2017. This included the following transport measures:
- Extension of the Young Persons Railcard to 26-30 age group for discounted rail travel.
 - VED rate for new diesel cars that don't meet latest standards, will go up one band. Increase in diesel company car tax by 1%. This will only apply to cars. This will provide £220m, which will be used for a clean air fund from 2018.
 - HGV and Road user levy frozen. Fuel duty frozen.
 - Air passenger duty frozen from April – this will be funded by an increase on taxes for private jets.
 - People who charge electric vehicles at work will not be taxed as a benefit in kind.
 - £400m charging infrastructure fund.
 - £100m Plug in Car Grant.
 - £40m research into charging.
 - £30m for digital connectivity on the trans-pennine route.
 - £300m confirmed for rail services in Northern Powerhouse/Midlands Connect services to support HS2.
 - £2m to support Midlands Connect study into Coventry/Leamington Spa rail corridor and £4m for congestion measures.
 - A £1.7bn "Transforming Cities" fund – half allocated to combined authorities, and half provided to remaining authorities through a competitive basis

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 Funding for Local Roads announcement, DfT, October 2017.
Statement of Funds Available, DfT, October 2017.
Future of the East Midlands Rail Franchise, Public Consultation, DfT, July 2017.
Draft Accessibility Action Plan, DfT, August 2017.
HM Treasury Budget Statement, November 2017.

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