

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

Date: **MARCH 2013** Agenda item number: **7**

From: **JOINT OFFICERS STEERING GROUP**

TRANSPORT ISSUES UPDATE

Purpose of report

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

Local Transport Bodies

2. The two authorities are working closely with Derby and Derbyshire to progress arrangements for a D2N2 Local Transport Board consistent with the Department for Transport's (DfT) proposals to devolve local major transport scheme funding for delivery post 2015.
3. The intention is to put local transport authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) in influential roles in the decision making arrangements of local transport bodies over which transport schemes are delivered.
4. In a statement issued on 23rd January 2013 the DfT set out indicative funding allocations for the D2N2 Local Transport Board of about £46.8 million over a 4 year period, i.e. £11.7 million/year. Because local agreement for overlapping areas of D2N2 and the Sheffield City Region LEPs is still to be reached, for planning purposes, the allocation for the four districts within the overlapping LEP areas has been shared 50:50 until formal agreement on boundaries is achieved. This will likely be post the completion of Sheffield City Region's Governance Review.
5. The next stage is to formally agree an assurance framework. The Department has stated that assurance frameworks must meet minimum standards as set out in published guidance. A draft assurance framework has been submitted to the DfT as required in their guidance. The deadline for submitting prioritised lists of schemes for funding for the period from 2015 is by the end of July 2013.

Major Scheme Coordination

6. An unprecedented amount of transport construction work is currently taking place within the Greater Nottingham area. This investment in expanding the tram system, station hub, A453 widening and other projects is helping to drive the local economy, is increasing local employment, attracting inward investment and helping to regenerate key areas of the conurbation.
7. As with any construction projects on this scale, some disruption is inevitable. The authorities are working hard with the delivery partners to minimise these impacts as much as possible.
8. To minimise disruption and keep Nottingham 'Open for Business' the Councils are working together to:
 - Coordinate the work programmes of the various organisations involved to avoid conflicts wherever possible.
 - Inform in advance when disruption is most likely to occur.
 - Ensure alternative travel options are available and promoted.
 - Ensure contact details are available to report any problems.
9. Additional staff members are being appointed to increase capacity to respond. Information strategies are being developed for target audiences.
10. Senior representatives from Nottingham Express Transit, Network Rail, East Midlands Trains and the Highways Agency have come together with the councils to share programme information and have agreed to cooperate.
11. Communication channels including, web site information, printed material and social media are being used to keep people informed. Variable message screens are also to be located at key sites to provide real time information messages.

Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) update

12. Following the announcement of funding in July 2012, the Nottingham LSTF programme has received widespread national coverage and a workshop on creating behavioural change through smarter travel, is being held in Nottingham in April 2013. The LSTF programme consists of five main workstrands and progress is described below:

Smartcard development and integrated ticketing

13. Linked to funding secured by the City Deal process, a range of travel support schemes are on offer to residents. Most recently a Job Seekers

Kangaroo Citycard travel support scheme was launched in January, offering half price travel for job seekers and long term unemployed from April 2013. The scheme is being delivered in partnership with Job centre Plus.

14. Plans for establishing a smartcard retail network are being progressed. This will consist of ticket vending machines at all NET tram platforms, a range of smartcard top up stations available at local centres and community hubs, and card validators available at key bus stops. These retail units will allow for Citycard value top ups and card issuing. The network will be fully established in late 2014 in line with the introduction of the Lines 2 and 3 of the tram.

Community Smarter Travel Hubs

15. Local funding contributions have been secured from NHS Nottingham City and Gedling and Broxtowe Borough Councils developer contribution monies to fund a further four Neighbourhood Smarter Travel Coordinators which will help expand the number of Community Smarter Travel Hubs in place. These will be located in the Mary Potter Centre, and at the Clifton Cornerstone Joint Service Centres within the city, with a further two Hubs in in Arnold and Beeston to serve Gedling and Broxtowe residents respectively.
16. A grant award to third sector/community organisations to set up and recruit these travel coordinators is being offered. The successful organisations will have access to a separate intervention budget to commission locally focused travel services to promote low carbon travel options.

WorkSmart

17. The work of the Greater Nottingham Transport Partnership (GNTP) continues to support local businesses with sustainable travel guidance and support. The Business Liaison officer at the GNTP has recently provided support to the Environment Agency in Rushcliffe and Boots sites within the City and Broxtowe.
18. The ECO Stars scheme which has been successfully operating in Gedling since 2011 was launched across the conurbation with a business masterclass in March 2013. The scheme offers recognition, free guidance and advice to local businesses and fleet operators to improve their fleet management practices, save costs and help reduce emission levels.

Active travel

19. The Ucycle Nottingham project is continuing to encourage increased cycling levels. Dr Bike and maintenance classes in particular are proving successful

with events booked at the University of Nottingham, Nottingham University Hospital Trust, New College Nottingham, Central (South Notts) College and Bilborough College.

20. The Ridewise cycle training providers are delivering Cycling for All events from the Queens Drive Park and Ride site and in Broxtowe (funded by NHS Broxtowe Lifestyle). The project utilises specialist bikes for those with physical, mental and learning difficulties purchased using LSTF funds.

Cycle funding announcements

21. The Department for Transport has made £15 million nationally available through a Cycle Safety Fund with the specific purpose of improving cycle safety at road junctions. An announcement is awaited of whether bids totalling up to £0.5m to upgrade the cycle facilities around the Dunkirk roundabout, Mansfield Road in Nottingham and North Road / Amcott Way, Retford have been successful.
22. A bid to the separate Linking Places Fund was made for the construction of a section of multi-user path alongside the River Leen between Church Street and Wilkinson Street, Nottingham. In total £150,000 has been made available supported by £100,000 match funding from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund.
23. Nottingham has also been invited to bid for a Cycle City Ambition Grant available to Cities who have secured City Deals. The bidding round is expected to be extremely competitive with large levels of funding, potentially £10 per head of population per year for two years available, but will be limited to just two or three cities. The guidance states partnership and joint funding opportunities with Public Health should be explored and set out how the work will achieve increased physical activity levels.

Recommendation

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

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