

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

Date: **SEPTEMBER 2010** 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 Transport Plan 3

2. In a letter to Local Authorities dated 9th August the Department for Transport confirmed the requirement to prepare replacement Local Transport Plans by April 2011 and there are no plans to remove or amend this statutory duty by the new Government. It also clarified the position on guidance in relation to:
 - The Government will no longer assess Plans or require Local Authorities to prepare progress reports.
 - Authorities should take account of Government policy as it emerges over the coming months on how local government performance is to be assessed, but meanwhile they are encouraged both to consider what indicators are most important for their own areas, and to retain the ability to compare themselves against others to improve efficiency and effectiveness.
 - Ministers have highlighted key policy priorities that should be reflected in LTPs, namely ones which help grow the economy and help tackle carbon emissions, but local authorities should not neglect other important priorities, including road safety, affordability, accessibility, and people's health and wellbeing.
3. The letter concludes by stating that the challenges of the coming years will require local authorities to address hard questions of priority, plan their delivery carefully, and work together where there is scope both for efficiency and improvement. In this new environment, LTPs are a vital tool to ensure that the right decisions are made about transport investment and services. Local authorities will need strong and determined leadership, but they know

better than Whitehall what is right for their own communities, and are well placed to deliver.

4. Consultation on the local transport priorities and challenges has now been completed by both authorities with a range of stakeholders, members and the public. This has helped prioritise the transport challenges and opportunities for LTP3 for each of the City and County Plans.
5. The next stages in taking forward LTP3s are:

City

- consultation on challenges and options (completed August);
- consultation on draft LTP3 (October 2010);
- Full Council approval (early 2011);
- new plans effective (from April 2011).

County

- consultation on strategic options (completed July);
- consultation on draft LTP3 (October 2010)
- Full Council approval (early 2011);
- new plans effective (from April 2011).

Department for Transport budget cuts

6. The new coalition Government announced that it is to make £6.2 billion savings during 2010/11 with the Department for Transport cutting £683m in spending as part of these savings. This has resulted in in-year cuts to transport related grants to the City and County Council's as follows:

Grant	City reduction	County reduction
Capital:		
LTP Integrated Transport Block	£2.090m	£2.670m
Road Safety Capital Grant	£0.160m	£0.350m
Urban Congestion Fund	£0.470m	
PRN Network Funding		£0.020m
Area Based Grant:		
Road safety revenue	£0.190m	£0.420m
Kickstart Bus Fund	£0.070m	

7. It is expected that the Comprehensive Spending Review scheduled for October will announce the distribution and level of transport grants from 2011/12 onwards which again will be at levels well below recent year allocations.

8. The delivery of all major transport schemes without full approval is currently on hold awaiting the outcome of the new Government's national infrastructure review. The outcome of the review is also to be announced as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

A453 (M1 to Nottingham) Widening Scheme

9. On 2nd September Councillors from the City, County and Rushcliffe Councils met with local Members of Parliament, stakeholders and business representatives to agree the approach for continued lobbying activity in respect of the A453 M1 to Nottingham trunk road widening scheme in advance of Comprehensive Spending Review announcements.

Congestion Performance Fund

10. It has been announced that there will be one final payment of Congestion Performance Funding which is to be paid at the end of the financial year. The final payment is to be a fixed 25% share of what would have been previously been available which takes account of the cut to the allocation as set out in the section above.
11. Taking account of current financial pressures and recent Government policy announcements priorities for the allocation of remaining congestion performance funding are to support the delivery of the Nottingham Station Hub project, highway network management and Nottingham Traffic Control Centre, smarter choices measures, the Nottingham multi-modal transport model and congestion data collection.

NET Phase Two

12. The NET Phase Two procurement process is still ongoing. Tender returns were received in May 2010 and are currently being evaluated. Following the identification of a preferred bidder, the tender award is expected in the summer 2011.
13. A Transport and Works Act application was made on 2nd August 2010 to the Department for Transport seeking Compulsory Purchase powers over open space land in Chilwell owned by the County Council. In parallel, an Exchange Land Certificate application was made to the Department for Communities and Local Government for replacement open space to be located on the western edge of Chilwell. Following periods in which objections or representations to the applications can be made, the Secretaries of State will then decide whether to deal with comments received by a process of written exchanges or a public inquiry. If an inquiry is held it is likely to take place in early 2011.

Recommendation

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

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