

Meeting:	<b>JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT</b>
Date:	6 December 2019
From:	Joint Officer Steering Group

ITEM: 7

## **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 Transforming Cities Fund, Maintenance Challenge Fund, Access Fund, Gedling Access Road update, National Cycle Network Funding and bus services to the Airport.

### **2 BACKGROUND**

#### **Transforming Cities Fund**

- 2.2 £8.3m of Tranche 1 funding has been secured for Nottingham and Derby to deliver a programme of 'quick win' measures focused on public transport technology and cycling that is currently being implemented.
- 2.3 A final Strategic Outline Business Case for Tranche 2 for a broader programme of public transport, walking and cycling measures up to £160 million for the period 2019/20 to 2022/23 was submitted at the end of November. An announcement by the Government on funding allocations is expected in the new year.
- 2.4 In addition a 'Future Mobility Zone' to trial new innovative transport projects was submitted at the end of September for a programme of up to £20 million. An announcement as to whether we have been successful was expected at the end of October but has been delayed to after the general election.

#### **Maintenance Challenge Fund**

- 2.5 The Maintenance Challenge fund is a further round of maintenance funding for 2020/21, announced on 24 July. The £198million fund is split equally between a small bid (less than £5million) and large bid (over £5million) process. Funding is for maintenance of bridges and structures, carriageways, footways and gullies/drainage.
- 2.6 The City Council has submitted a small bid for maintenance works to Trent Bridge, totaling £2.7m. The proposal includes providing waterproofing, carriageway and footway resurfacing, and replacement of the current temporary protection barriers with a long term replacement. A funding announcement is not expected until the new year.
- 2.7 The County Council has submitted small bids for maintenance works around Gunthorpe bridge along both the A6097 and A612 between Burton Joyce and Lowdham Roundabout, around Lady Bay bridge along the A6211 and on the A60 in West Bridgford.

#### **Access Fund**

- 2.8 The City Council received £2.735 million of Access Fund grant from Department for Transport for 2017/18 to 2019/20 through a partnership bid with Derby City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council. The programme aims to support travel behaviour change for people living and working in the area.

2.9 The Access Fund provides £1.459 million of revenue funding for Nottingham City delivering range of projects offering sustainable travel solutions for businesses and communities to encourage behaviour change, with a focus on active travel. The Access Fund programme comprises two complementary workstrands:

- Connected Communities offers household personalised travel planning (PTP), supporting active travel culture through the British Cycling HSBC programme, Community Cycles Centres and cyclist awareness training package for professional drivers to improve understanding about sharing road space for cars and bicycles.
- Business, Jobs and Skills offers the Workplace Travel Service to promote sustainable travel options to businesses (jointly funded from Go Ultra Low programme to support uptake of electric vehicles) with Workplace PTP, staff travel events and active travel services; and a jobseeker package offering personal PTP and active travel support package (reconditioned bike, cycle training, Dr Bike, cycle maintenance training and Build a Bike courses) providing practical travel advice and a low cost means of transport combined with the opportunity to gain skills and qualifications related to cycling and bike mechanics.
- The Access Fund programme is underpinned by comprehensive communications and information about travel options through the Transport Nottingham website and social media channels as part of Let's Keep Nottingham Moving.

2.10 The Department for Transport has recently announced an extension of the Access Fund for 2020/21 and Nottingham and Derby are eligible to apply for a further £912,000 to continue our Access Fund programme. The council is currently working with colleagues at Derby City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council to scope out options and costs for continuing our travel behaviour change activities for a further year in line with the current offer. Bids need to be submitted to Department for Transport by 29th November 2019. The bid must include a minimum 10% local contribution which can be capital or revenue funding, but cannot include funding secured from DfT through previous competition or contributions included in previous Access Fund bid. The application process has been streamlined for local authorities bidding to continue existing projects but will require S151 Officer sign off. Department for Transport hopes to confirm our 2020-21 grant allocation by late December.

#### **Gedling Access Road - Update**

2.11 The primary purpose of the GAR is to support the redevelopment of the former Gedling Colliery site enabling the construction of up to 1,050 new dwellings and development of 6 hectares of employment land. The secondary objective of the GAR is that it will also provide a 'bypass' link to the east of Gedling, with the wider road network and consequently Nottingham City Centre. The construction of GAR will have positive impacts to the transport network by improving connectivity of the local road network and reducing traffic flows along the A6211 Arnold Lane / Main Road corridor thereby reducing traffic congestion in Gedling Village. Such roads are at present either at, or nearing, capacity and therefore provide neither a safe nor a pleasant environment for both local residents and drivers.

2.12 The delivery timescales for GAR are challenging reflecting the complexities of delivering a large infrastructure project with a range of landowners, funding streams, and ecology and engineering issues in relation to a former colliery site. The date of the Public Inquiry defined the timescales for delivery of GAR and following confirmation of the Orders on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019, main construction works are planned to commence in January 2020 and the Gedling Access Road completed and open to traffic during 2021 as previously reported.

2.13 NCC has a dedicated webpage ([www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/GAR](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/GAR)) associated with the GAR and this provides links to all partner sites. There have been various press releases

providing further opportunity for the community and stakeholders to be kept information with progress and key milestones, these are shared through social media platforms and in the local press. Key milestones from the confirmation of the Orders are:

- 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019 – Notice of confirmation of CPO issued and publicised;
- 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019 – First phase of General Vesting Declaration and Notice to Treat / Enter served to obtain access land required to deliver GAR;
- 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – Planning conditions that required public consultation considered and approved at Gedling Borough Council Planning Committee meeting;
- 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – Site clearance works being undertaken in advance of main construction works;
- 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – Public *‘Meet the Contractor Events’*
- 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019 - D2N2 LEP Board for approval of the GAR Full Business Case (originally scheduled to go to 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – D2N2 LEP Infrastructure and Investment Board);
- 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – Completion of drainage works by Via East Midlands in advance on main construction works;
- 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – Consideration of granting approval to enter Stage 2 of Contract with Balfour Beatty;
- 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Main construction works commence with site mobilisation
- January 2020 to June 2021 – 18 month duration for construction of GAR;
- July 2021 – Gedling Access Road open to traffic;
- July to September 2021 – Works on Arnold Lane (requires closure and GAR to be available as a diversion route) and at Arnold Lane / Mapperley Plains / Plains Road junction;
- October 2021 – All construction works related to the project completed.

2.14 Consultation has already commenced with key stakeholders directly affected by the construction and the public ‘Meet the Contractor’ events provide an opportunity to engage with the local community and local supply chain. These events will include details of construction methodology phasing and details of the scheme. There will be opportunities for the project team to consider feedback and to ensure that wherever possible, local needs are considered to minimise disruption.

### **National Cycle Network funding**

2.15 Nottingham has recently been awarded £486,000 by the DfT from the Sustrans National Cycle Network improvement programme with funding that runs into 2020/21. The scheme will divert a section of NCN6 from its current route through the Aspley estate. This on-road route has a number of anti-motor bike barriers and overall is not fit for purpose under the new Sustrans NCN standards. The new route will follow the off road Ring Road path between Crown Island and Church St, then onto Church St itself and Lincoln St, re-joining the River Leen corridor and NCN6 route north of David Lane.

2.16 The NCN funding plus monies from Transforming Cities Tranche 1 Fund (already received) will allow this scheme to proceed.

### **Bus services to East Midlands Airport**

2.17 The councils are continuing to work with the EMA/SEGRO steering groups to identify opportunities to improve connectivity to the airport. The County is also working closely with the City on the formulation of the Transforming Cities Fund bid to include a Demand Responsive Transport element which could provide the solution for the communities of Rushcliffe.

### **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 Maintenance Challenge Fund Guidance, DfT, July 2019  
Spending Review announcement, HM Treasury, August 2019

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