

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

Date: **MARCH 2015** Agenda item number: 7

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 Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) update

2. The current main LSTF programme will conclude at the end March 2015. The planned programme has been delivered and full spend is expected to be achieved. Key delivery achievements during 2014/15 include:
 - Smartcard development which has resulted in an ITSO standard integrated ticketing platform across all public transport operations in Nottingham; a comprehensive retail network consisting of online website, vending machines on street and on tram platforms; and the successful Kangaroo Half Price travel offer for job seekers.
 - A network of five community smarter travel hub services established across the urban area offering personalised journey planning support, practical training e.g. adult cycling training, events, led rides, campaigns and challenges to encourage residents to access take up sustainable travel options.
 - A comprehensive cycling programme including the Ucycle project in Universities and FE colleges; a schools cycling programme (Bikeability, Bike IT); active travel events e.g. Cycle Live weekends; and the Citycard Cycle Hire and hubs projects.
 - Roll out of 20 mph schemes across the urban area with all residential streets in the City of Nottingham covered by a 20mph area and areas outside schools in Nottinghamshire County Council.
 - Business support measures which have included the GNTP Business Club; ECO Stars fleet recognition scheme; introduction of a Car Club; and workplace challenge activities.
3. Monitoring and evaluation activities are underway to comply with the Department for Transport evaluation requirements. This consists of a

process evaluation (to determine what worked well with programme delivery and lessons learnt) and an impact evaluation to draw out the effectiveness of the LSTF on helping to achieve its overarching objectives of supporting growth, reducing carbon and improving health. To support the evaluation activities a Big Ideas Survey 2015 has been commissioned. The surveys with members of the public and with business representatives are being carried out with the first draft of the findings to be made available in April 2015.

4. Continuation funding for the strongest performing elements of programme was secured in summer 2015. Nottingham's "sustainable access to employment, skills and training" programme successfully secured £1.180m revenue for 2015/16. Executive Board approval was received in November 2014 and the agreements are being finalised with delivery partners to continue from 1 April 2015.
5. 2015/16 programme investment will be across the following strands:
 - Community smarter travel hubs programme consisting of hubs in the north, central and southern localities of the City.
 - Discounted travel for job seekers and new starts.
 - Community-wide active travel support programme including an events, Bike IT in secondary schools, Bikeability and Ucycle continuation.
 - Continuation of the GNTP Business Club travel planning and smarter choice activities.
 - Promotion of strategic cycle corridors linked to infrastructure improvements.
6. Delivery will be aligned to support the implementation of the major infrastructure projects such as the NET tram expansion completion and the cycle city ambition package.

Go Ultra Low City Funding

7. In December 2014, the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) based within the Department for Transport announced a £500m package for 2015-2020 to help deliver a step-change in the number of ultra-low emission (ULEV) cars, vans and buses in the UK.
8. The objectives of the Fund package are to deliver significant air quality benefits, reduce carbon emissions and create ULEV-related growth opportunities for businesses locally and beyond.
9. To support the announcement, the Government released preliminary guidance for participants for three complementary Funds. Authorities can bid for funding from one or all of these available schemes:

- **Go Ultra Low (GUL) City Scheme** (£35m capital funding) to upto 4 cities which will deliver a step-change in the uptake of ULEVs in their local area and achieve exemplar status.
 - **Low Emission Bus Scheme** (£30m) will be made available to local authorities and bus operators for upto three years (2015 – 2018) to support the uptake of low and ultra-low emission buses (to off-set costs of bus purchase and for associated charging infrastructure).
 - **Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Taxi Scheme** (£20m) is being made available to grow the market for ULEVs in the Hackney Taxi and Private Hire market. The Fund is available to local authorities to provide resource for a taxi top-up grant and supporting infrastructure.
10. The City Council in partnership with the County Council, the two Universities and other local partners lead on an expression of interest submission to OLEV for a £7-10 million package to establish Greater Nottingham as an exemplar for low carbon transport solutions. Broad measures included:
- The creation of a liveable city centre core consisting of a city centre **low emission zone**, supported by ultra-low emission buses and taxis.
 - Implementation of a comprehensive electric vehicle charging network at accessible locations including Park and Ride sites, City Council owned car parks and key strategic charging hubs at locations e.g. Eastcroft Depot.
 - A **broad ranging business support package** consisting of grants for businesses to incentivise ULEV uptake, events and advice will be delivered building on the sustainable and active travel measures delivered through complementary funded business support programmes.
 - An equivalent **residents/community package** to encourage the use of car club electric vehicles, providing discounts/incentives e.g. car club EV use, events, comprehensive communications/PR and signposting to relevant national Government schemes.
 - Finally, the two Councils have ambitions of **transforming in-house fleet operations** by utilising low emission vehicles for business use and as part of core service delivery to become exemplar local authorities.
11. Nottingham's Go Ultra Low City Bid was shortlisted and has been invited to submit a full and final bid for consideration by OLEV. The deadline is 31st August 2015 and decisions will be announced later in the autumn.

NET Tram Update

12. Intensive works continue to substantially complete the lines to Chilwell and Clifton. The track is now in place and overhead poles and overhead wiring is being completed and tested. Work is being focussed on traffic signal junctions to facilitate tram operation for tram testing and driver training.
13. Day time testing has commenced on the Clifton line as far as Silverdale, allowing driver training to take place on this section, with night time testing of the tram infrastructure underway as far as Clifton centre. Night time testing has recently been extended to University Boulevard on the Beeston and Chilwell route. The testing will continue to extend out along each line in stages, with testing along the full extent of both routes expected to be underway in April. Public services on the new lines are expected to start in the summer 2015.

A453 update

14. Works to widen the A453 between M1 Junction 24 and the Nottingham Ring Road are continuing. The scheme is set to be completed ahead of schedule and is due to open in May 2015.
15. Recent media announcements confirmed the A453 will be named Remembrance Way in honour of the 453 servicemen who lost their lives in the recent war in Afghanistan. Public consultation showed overwhelming support for the naming the road (90%) and Rushcliffe Borough Council, Nottingham City Council and North West Leicestershire District Council are working together with the Highways Agency to make arrangements in line with the official opening in May this year.

Midlands Connect

16. The Midlands Connect group has been formed to champion strategic transport investment across the East and West Midlands. Midlands Connect is a collaboration of Midlands-wide local enterprise partnerships, Network Rail, the Highways Agency, local authorities and the business community and is focused on making the case for strategic road, rail and airport surface access investment post 2020.
17. A major economic study, the first phase of Midlands Connect, is examining and assessing where connectivity improvements are likely to have the greatest long-term impact on employment and the economy. Initial findings of the study have been released to the group and presented at a Leaders Summit in February 2015. The study provides an evidence base for why investment into the Midlands is required to get the region 'HS2 ready' and to improve east-west connectivity.

18. A second phase of work is focused on developing the communications strategy and Midlands Leaders coming together to build the case for Midlands Connect. The work will form an important platform for engagement with Government in the new parliament.

Recommendation

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

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