

Meeting:	JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
Date:	7 th June 2019
From:	Joint Officer Steering Group

ITEM: 6

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, Major Road Network and Gedling Access Road as well as an update on the East Midlands Rail Franchise announcement.

2 BACKGROUND

Transforming Cities Fund

- 2.2 As part of the 2017 budget the government announced the creation of the Transforming Cities Fund. On the 27th September 2018, the Department for Transport announced that Nottingham and Derby was one of the shortlisted cities after a competitive expression of interest process.
- 2.3 At the 2018 Budget, the government announced additional funding for a further year and two additional cities would be added. The funding is aimed at driving up productivity through improved connectivity in larger urban areas. Its focus is on public transport, walking and cycling measures. A joint bid for Nottingham and Derby was submitted on the 4th January 2019 for £8.345m for quick win schemes.
- 2.4 As part of the Spring Budget on 13th March 2019, it was announced that the Tranche 1 funding bid was successful. There are two packages of works that are proposed to be implemented:

Public Transport Technology Projects

- Bus traffic light priority at five key junctions along the A52/A6200 corridor
- Installation of real-time information screens at key bus stops, workplaces and interchanges.
- Smart public transport payment systems to enable purchase of the Robin Hood multi-operator tickets via smart phones
- Upgrade of tram ticket machines to enable contactless payment
- Installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure at East Midlands Gateway and public transport interchanges.

Active Travel Projects

- Improved access to Nottingham Station and the city centre from the southern cycle corridor.
- Integration with new walking and cycling connections with Nottingham's Enterprise Zone
- Improved access between the Beeston Canal and highway network, including installation of lighting underbridges and upgrade to the towpath at pinch points
- Delivery of phase one of the strategic cycling route from Derby to Nottingham along the former Spondon Canal.

- Expand the current e-Bike scheme in Derby, and support a new e-Bike cycle hire offer in Nottingham.

2.5 Delivery of the Tranche 1 programme will take place through 2019/20. In addition a bid for the larger main Tranche 2 programme is in preparation. A draft outline business case is to be submitted in June with final bids due to for submission in November.

2.6 Linked to the Transforming Cities programme the Government has earmarked £70m to create up to four Future Mobility Zones. These will focus specifically on trialing new mobility services, modes, payment systems and ticketing. Expressions of Interest were required in May with full bids required during the summer.

Major Road Network

2.7 From 2020, the Major Road Network (MRN) will provide funding for highway improvements on designated “A” roads over the next five years (up to 2025). At the 2018 budget, approximately £3.5bn was set aside for this fund (along with Local Major Transport scheme funding). Funding is to be allocated through Midlands Connect through a prioritisation process. As part of this process, Nottingham City Council submitted to this process two potential schemes: the Ring Road Phase 2 (Basford Bridge works) and Western Outer Link Road (A6002) (junction improvements).

2.8 As part of the MRN process, the County Council submitted three proposals for capacity corridor schemes within Nottinghamshire in Mansfield (A617), Ashfield (A38) and Newark (A614/A6097). The Secretary of State for Transport announced in October 2018 that Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) had been provisionally allocated £18m from the Department for Transport (DfT) to fund a package of measures to upgrade the A614 / A6097 Corridor by improving six junctions along the route (from Lowdham to Ollerton) increasing capacity to accommodate future residential and employment development. The County Council will be submitting an Outline Business Case for this scheme to the DfT by the end of May. Nottinghamshire has also submitted an application to this process for a Large Local Major (over £50m) for the A611 in Ashfield.

Gedling Access Road (GAR)

2.9 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.

2.10 The scheme will involve the construction of a new 3.8km link road, in Gedling, Nottinghamshire. The new road follows a south-eastern route from the B684 Mapperley Plains, in Mapperley north of Gedling to the A612 Trent Valley Way / Nottingham Road junction east of Gedling. A new 3.0m wide shared use footway / cycleway will be provided along the entire length of GAR. Signal controlled TOUCAN crossings located at key desire lines will be provided to assist pedestrian and cycle crossing movements. Pedestrian crossing points will be provided across the GAR to enable the public to access land to the Country Park and other areas to assist pedestrian and cycling crossing movements.

2.11 The Side Road and Compulsory Purchase Orders were made in October 2018. A 6-week consultation period for affected or interested parties expired on the 21 December 2018. The National Transport Casework Team (NTCT) at the Department for Transport, confirmed on the 7 January 2019, that there were 8 statutory and 1 non-statutory objections to the Orders. The NTCT have advised that Inspector J Wilde has been appointed to open the inquiry at 10am on Tuesday 11 June 2019 with an expected

duration of 5 days at the St Georges Centre, 91 Victoria Road, Netherfield, Nottingham, NG4 2NN. The Statement of Case has been issued and can be viewed at: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/gedling-access-road/compulsory-purchase-order/statement-case>

2.12 The setting of the inquiry defines the timescales for delivery and subject to confirmation of the Orders it is expected that the main construction works can start in January 2020 and the road open to traffic during 2021.

East Midlands Rail Franchise

2.13 The new franchise has been awarded to Abellio, starting on 18th August 2019 and lasting for up to 10 years. Abellio will operate train services under a new permanent 'East Midlands Railway' brand. Based on the previously published invitation to tender (ITT), the new franchise will deliver:

- A major investment in rolling stock, including a fleet of new intercity bi-mode trains – which will also create business opportunities for the East Midlands' world class rail sector;
- A significant increase in the number of seats on peak London services and improved journey times, as well as improvements to capacity and comfort on local and regional services;
- More Sunday services and early and late running trains – including to the Lincolnshire Coast;
- Significant investment in and around stations;
- Better planning for services to visitor attractions and to major events, and more support for Community Rail Partnerships which work to promote under-used rail lines; and
- Much needed improved ticketing, compensation arrangements and free wifi on trains and at stations for passengers.

East Midlands Airport

2.14 The Council continues to work with the bus companies and other Local Transport Authorities to improve connectivity for Nottinghamshire residents to EMA and the EMEG site. The partners will continue to explore funding opportunities to improve service provision.

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 Spring Statement, HM Treasury, March 2019
East Midlands Rail Franchise announcement, DfT, April 2019

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