

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

Date: **18 September 2015**      Agenda item number: 6

From: **JOINT OFFICERS STEERING GROUP**

## **TRANSPORT ISSUES UPDATE**

### **Purpose of report**

1. To update the Committee on transport related issues in the Greater Nottingham area.

### **OLEV Go Ultra Low City Bid**

2. In December 2014, the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV), a cross-Government policy team hosted by the Department for Transport (DfT), announced a £500 million package for 2015 - 2020 to help deliver a step-change in the number of Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) buses, cars and vans in the UK. The objectives of the package are to deliver significant air quality benefits, reduce carbon emissions and create ULEV-related growth opportunities for car manufacturing and businesses locally and beyond.
3. In March 2015, Nottingham was selected as one of 11 schemes and invited to submit a final bid to government. Up to 4 winning authorities will benefit from a share of £35 million capital funding to introduce measures that will achieve OLEV's primary aims of supporting the uptake of ULEVs in the local area and achieve exemplary status to showcase innovation and best practice on an international scale.
4. It is proposed to submit a £6-£8 million scalable bid to OLEV offering a broad range of measures to be delivered across the N2 area with potential to expand delivery across the D2N2 LEP area. The low carbon transport strategy themes are:

**Smart City:** To develop information tools and utilise intelligent systems to provide technological solutions to support a smart city. At its core this includes the development of the Nottingham Citycard integrated card as a passport to unlocking transport services, promoting D2N2 as a test bed for innovation, research trials to support growth in the low carbon sector.

**Business and Commuting:** To support businesses and commuters through a comprehensive business support package to encourage the take up of low emission vehicles as part of commercial and private ownership. We will build on our successful Workplace Parking Levy business support package offering grants to WPL liable and SME businesses with financial support towards workplace electric vehicle charging infrastructure and supportive measures offering businesses advice, vehicle 'try before you buy' loans, information and practical support to tackle barriers of lack of knowledge/familiarity of ULEVs, purchase and running costs and range anxiety.

**Community and Shared Mobility:** A comprehensive resident support package maximising Nottingham's integrated transport offer through shared mobility solutions such as expansion of the City Car Club into residential areas, integration with the expanded tram network, bus system and Citycard Cycles bike sharing scheme. A broad ranging support of information, advice, try outs, events, financial support and tools will be provided to tackle common barriers of lack of knowledge/familiarity with ULEVs, purchase and running costs and range anxiety as well as signposting to the national home charging scheme (for those with off-street parking),

**Self Sufficient Energy City:** Making use of Nottingham's position as the UK's most energy efficient city, Enviro Energy and the creation of Robin Hood Energy to power the local transport system including buses, trams, electric vehicle charging plus exploring options to regeneration areas such as Waterside.

The OLEV measures include:

- Development of the **Nottingham Citycard integrated card** as an EV membership card for electric vehicle charging infrastructure supported by a new smartphone App for accessing a broad range of transport services.
- Creation of an **area-wide charging infrastructure network** comprising slow, fast and rapid charging units at public places e.g. park and rides, retail/shopping centres and supermarkets.
- A comprehensive **business support package** to support commercial businesses to take up low emission vehicles which includes grants to businesses for workplace EV charging, events, information and promotion, a van loan scheme and transition of Council fleets to ULEVs.
- Creation of **Nottingham Enterprise Zone demonstration site** to include electric vehicle charging and local distribution infrastructure alongside planned Growth Fund sustainable transport improvements.
- A **complementary community package** promoting shared mobility through the expansion of the City Car Club, exploration of a vehicle

scrappage scheme, promotions, events, information and try outs of a range of vehicles.

- Implementation of a **city centre Low Emission Zone** for buses and taxis to create a vibrant and liveable city centre core to improve air quality.
  - Establishment of a **D2N2 Low Carbon Transport Technology Centre** of international importance delivering events, networking, training and applied R&D. For instance, inviting test bed ideas assessed by a Technology Panel of experts to trial and deploy ideas.
5. The OLEV Bid will be submitted to government on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Decisions are expected by end November. The programme will run from January 2016 to 31 March 2021.

### **OLEV Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles Bid**

6. On 23<sup>rd</sup> July the Department for Transport and Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) announced the shortlists for the Taxi and Private Hire feasibility stage. Nottingham was named as one of eight winning schemes who will each receive a £30,000 government-backed study into providing more environmentally-friendly travel opportunities in their area.
7. The Energy Savings Trust have been commissioned by government to gather vital information on the current fleet make up to make recommendations on how the taxi and private hire fleet could be made low emission.
8. A final bid to government will be submitted in April 2016 taking on the recommendations from Energy Savings Trust. If successful, a share of £20 million funding could be used to reduce the upfront cost of purpose-built taxis and charging infrastructure for taxi and private hire use.

### **NET Tram Update**

9. Nottingham's new expanded tram network opened to the public on Tuesday the 25th August 2015 at 6am when the first trams on the new lines to Clifton and Chilwell commenced passenger service. The project has seen construction of 17.5km of new lines, creation of more than 2,000 free spaces at new park and ride sites, a new tram and bus interchange in Beeston and a new tram stop at the redeveloped Nottingham Station. A formal opening ceremony is in the process of being confirmed.

### **A453**

10. The A453 improvement scheme linking the M1 to Nottingham Ring Road was formally opened by the Secretary of State for Transport, Patrick

McLoughlin MP at a ceremony on 20 July. The road was named as Remembrance Way. Some roadside activity is continuing while tidy-up and finishing works are completed. Linked to the opening of NET Phase 2 the direct access from the Mill Hill roundabout to the NET Phase 2 Park and Ride is now also open.

### **Recommendation**

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

#### Contact officers

Chris Carter, Development and Growth, Nottingham City Council  
Tel: 0115 8763940  
Email: [chris.carter@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:chris.carter@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

Kevin Sharman, Environment and Resources, Nottinghamshire County Council  
Tel: 0115 9772970  
Email: [kevin.sharman@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.sharman@nottscc.gov.uk)