

Meeting:	JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
Date:	6 March 2020
From:	Joint Officer Steering Group

ITEM: 7

Transport Update

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an update on transport related issues across the Greater Nottingham conurbation. The report gives an update on expressions of interest to the Local Pinch Point Fund, progress on the Nottingham Air Quality Plan and the announcement that the Northern Rail Franchise is to be taken under Government control.

2 BACKGROUND

DfT Local Pinch Point Fund

- 2.2 The Budget 2018 announced a competitive fund for local authorities to bid for high-impact schemes to help address congestion pinch points and to reduce congestion on local roads. The fund is £150 million in total, with £75 million in each financial year 2021/22 and 2022/23.
- 2.3 The fund will operate in two stages. This first stage asks for authorities to come forward with brief expressions of interest by 31 January. The department will assess the expressions of interest and ministers will decide on a shortlist. Shortlisted authorities will then be required submit more detailed business cases.
- 2.4 The City Council has submitted an expression of interest (EOI). This sets out a scheme aimed at reducing congestion and smoothing traffic flow on the northbound A6514 Western Boulevard at its junction with Church Street. The Northbound A6514 link between the A610 and the Church Street junction is currently the most congested link in Nottingham. It is proposed that the scheme makes use of a range of interventions such as junction alterations, bus priority measures, traffic management and cycle improvements to prevent vehicles rat running from the A610 / Stockhill Lane junction to the northbound ring road.
- 2.5 The County Council has submitted two expressions of interest. The first scheme is for the improvement of the A60 / Park Lane / Baums Lane junction in Mansfield aimed at reducing congestion both along the A60 into and out of Mansfield and the Park Lane retail park (Sainsbury's / Aldi etc). The second EOI involves a proposed intelligent traffic signal control project in Newark town centre. This project involves the installation of CCTV cameras, the latest microprocessor optimized vehicle actuation (MOVA) and pedestrian crossing facility upgrades i.e. to maximise the efficiency of the existing highway network and lessen traffic congestion in the town.
- 2.6 If shortlisted to proceed to the next round of bidding the Councils will be expected to submit a full business case later in 2020.

Air Quality Plan

- 2.7 Nottingham was named as one of the cities with levels of nitrogen dioxide above the air quality directive limit of 40µgm⁻³. The City Council submitted its plan to improve air quality

to Defra in September 2018. The main measure was a programme of bus exhaust retrofitting, aimed at reducing nitrogen dioxide emissions from the bus fleet. Other measures included a programme of awareness raising, grants and support for hackney carriage drivers to convert to Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs).

- 2.8 The project to retrofit buses is making good progress, so far a total of 150 of Nottingham City Transport's double decker buses have been fitted with new exhaust systems leaving 13 double deckers and 10 single deckers scheduled for completion by the end of February. Working with the County Council Trent Barton have committed to retrofitting 40 of their buses by April 2020.
- 2.9 The City Council is also continuing to work with hackney carriage drivers to help with the transition away from older vehicles towards ULEVs by providing a ULEV try before you buy project together with grants for the licensing of new ULEV vehicles and home charge points. All City hackney carriages are required to meet either Euro 6 diesel standards or be ULEV by mid 2020.

Access Fund

- 2.10 We are awaiting an announcement from the Department for Transport to confirm the extended provision for Access Fund transport behavior change projects into 2020/21 in Nottingham and Derby. A bid of £912,000 of funding has been submitted and will be used to fund a wide range of measures aimed at encouraging the use of sustainable transport.

Northern Rail Franchise

- 2.11 The Secretary of State for Transport, Grant Shapps, has announced that the Northern Rail franchise, which has been operated by Arriva since 2016, will be brought under Government control from the 1st March 2020. The Government will begin operating services through the public sector operator, the so-called operator of last resort. The public sector operator is a company entirely owned by the DfT. Northern Rail currently runs the services between Nottingham and Leeds.

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 Local Plan to Improve Air Quality in Nottingham, September 2018

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