



## **OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE & BANSTEAD)**

### **LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND**

**5 DECEMBER 2011**

#### **KEY ISSUE**

The fund will support key elements of the Surrey Transport Plan. A successful bid will contribute to effective, reliable, safe and sustainable transport. These are the Surrey Transport Plan objectives. But the bid must also have a focus on carbon reduction and economic development.

#### **SUMMARY**

The County Council submitted an Expression of Interest to the Department for Transport (DfT) in June 2011 for a Large Project Bid. This was a competitive process. We were successful in being allowed to develop our Large Project Bid business case for submission in December 2011. We are one of only three counties that have been successful in getting to this stage and there are only 13 bidders nationally that have been pre-qualified to submit a full business case.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Local Committee agrees to setting up a Task Group to continue to steer the development of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund from late January 2012 so that an agreed programme is in place by June 2012.

#### **1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

1.1 The Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) is a new fund created by the Coalition Government released alongside the new Transport White Paper aimed at promoting packages of transport schemes with two overriding objectives:

- To support economic recovery and growth
- To reduce carbon emissions

## Large Project Bid

1.2 Surrey County Council submitted its Large Project Bid (Initial Proposals) on the 3 June 2011 and the Department for Transport (DfT) responded to this bid in a letter dated 3 August 2011.

1.3 The DfT had received 19 Large Bids (Initial Proposals) nationally and after scrutiny by a special board the bids were categorised as follows;

Large Project Bidders invited to submit a full business case.

Large Project Bidders invited to submit a revised business case

Large bidders invited to submit a Tranche 2 bid. (Limit of £5M)

Large Project Bidders turned down.

1.4 The Surrey bid was selected in category 2. Competition for funding has been intense. Regionally we are one of only three successful bidders and one of only two Counties successful at this stage. On the national stage we are one of only 3 Counties to be successful either individually or as part of a consortia, with many of the successful organisations being Passenger Transport Executives in the rest of England. On this basis we are developing a revised business case noting the feedback from DfT via their decision letter in August 2011 and a subsequent project initiation meeting in September 2011. The DfT meeting clarified how we could take forward our bid as follows: -

- The bid level to remain at £16 million.
- The investment should be concentrated in two to three towns.
- A more comprehensive package of behaviour change measures should be included.
- Their needs to be a compelling story of why the investment is required and how the measures fit together to form a coherent package, which may be geographically dispersed across the chosen towns.
- The 20 December 2011 is a fixed deadline for submitting bids. No relaxations will be offered.

## 2. ANALYSIS

2.1 The Large Project revised business case will need to be developed further from January 2012 provided that DfT are supportive. This will allow an agreed programme to be in place by June 2012. However, the timescales to agree the programme are constrained by the local elections and the reality that the current Local Committee meetings scheduled in the spring/summer do not fall at the right stages in developing the detailed programme.

2.2 It is therefore necessary that alternative arrangements are put in place, which gives the Local Committee the opportunity to develop the programme, yet allow the flexibility to meet the timescale. In order to

make this happen it is proposed that the Local Committee agrees that the future development of the LSTF programme in Reigate and Banstead is developed by a Local Transport task group.

### **3. CONSULTATIONS**

- 3.1 Consultation is being carried out with a wide range of stakeholders in developing the bid, including the Department for Transport, Transport for Surrey, Transport for Reigate and Redhill, Redhill Regeneration Forum, transport operators, Surrey Economic Partnership, Surrey Planning Officers Association (SPOA) SE7 and Surrey Police.

### **4. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The need to ensure value for money is central to developing the Local Sustainable Transport Fund submission, which is a requirement of the guidance.
- 4.2 The Local Sustainable Transport Fund (Large Project bid) if successful will provide capital and revenue funds. The large bid will secure £16 million if the County Council is completely successful. There being the opportunity for the Department of Transport to award lower levels of funding based on the strength of the business case when compared to competing bids submitted nationally. The funds provided are direct grant to the County Council.

### **5. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The funding being sought is for a package of sustainable transport measures including walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure. In addition a substantial behaviour change campaign supported by good information will be put in place. These measures are designed to reduce carbon.

### **6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None

### **7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Equalities Impact Assessments will be carried out as part of the development of the transport schemes that underpin the bid.

### **8. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 The Local Committee agrees to setting up a Task Group to continue to steer the development of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund from late January 2012 so that an agreed programme is in place by June 2012. The development of the LSTF large bid programme from late January 2012 is essential so that works can begin soon after June 2012 subject

to the County Council's bid being successful. The current scheduled meetings do not fall at the right time to enable this to happen.

**9. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

- 9.1 The Large Project bid will be developed for submission to the Department for Transport on the 20 December 2011.
- 9.2 Success in funding the bid will not be known until June 2012.

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**Sources/background papers:** **Local Sustainable Transport Fund (DfT  
2011)  
Guidance on Local Transport Plans (DfT  
2009)  
Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon (DfT  
2011)**