



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
(REIGATE AND BANSTEAD)**

**TRAVEL SMART
LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND (LARGE BID)
DELEGATION OF BUSINESS TRAVEL FORUM DECISIONS**

3 DECEMBER 2012

SUMMARY

In June 2012, the County Council was successful in securing an award of £14.304 million in grant funding from the Department for Transport's Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF). This is in addition to the award of £3.93 million LSTF Key Component secured in July 2011. Both grants are for the period up to 31 March 2015 and jointly form the Surrey Travel SMART programme. As part of the Surrey Travel SMART programme, a total of £4.854million has been allocated for sustainable travel improvements in Redhill / Reigate.

An element of this funding programme, approved at the 17 September 2012 Local Committee (Reigate and Banstead) meeting, is to develop business travel forums where local businesses can table proposals for travel improvements that can benefit commuters, visitors and shoppers. Due to being awarded funding later than expected during the financial year, it is not possible to bring proposals from the business travel forums to Local Committee and allow time for delivery of the schemes. The funding settlement from the Department for Transport (DfT) does not allow funding to be carried over into future financial years

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Reigate and Banstead) is asked to:

- i) Delegate authority to the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Local Committee to preside over proposals from the forums for implementation this financial year (2012/13) only.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Surrey County Council has been successful in securing £18.234 million from the DfT's Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) to deliver the Surrey Travel SMART programme. £3.93 million was awarded in July 2011 with a further £14.304 million awarded in June 2012 as part of the large bid of £16 million. The aim of the fund is to deliver sustainable travel measures that support economic growth and carbon reduction. A total of £4.854 million of the large bid funding is allocated for sustainable travel improvements in Redhill/Reigate.

- 1.1 One of the measures that the Local Committee meeting on the 17 September 2012 approved was to establish two business travel forums, one in Redhill town centre and one in Reigate town centre.
- 1.2 The forums are an opportunity for local businesses to discuss the impacts of travel on their productivity and to enable both the county and borough councils to feedback information on improvements and schemes being delivered as part of the wider Travel SMART programme.
- 1.3 The businesses participating in the business travel forums are developing ideas for projects that could be funded by the LSTF. The rationale behind establishing business travel forums in the Travel SMART towns comes as a result of the consultation process prior to submitting the large bid to the DfT where the business community expressed a need for connectivity between neighbouring businesses and for funding to support local projects.
- 1.4 Providing businesses with an opportunity to influence improvements to their area ensures a localist approach to developing improvements within the Travel SMART programme, and helps to deliver improvements that will directly impact positively on businesses.
- 1.5 The Local Committee on the 17 September 2012 appointed business champions from the Local Committee LSTF task group to support the working of the Business Travel Forums. Dr Hack and Cllr Mrs Bramhall were appointed to the Redhill Business Travel Forum and Dr Grant-Duff for the Reigate Business Travel Forum.

2. BUSINESS TRAVEL FORUMS IN 2012/13

- 2.1 The business travel forums for Redhill and Reigate have been set up as part of existing business groups, the Redhill Regeneration Forum in Redhill and the Reigate Business Guild in Reigate. The first discussions are being undertaken with businesses in November 2012.
- 2.2 This means that the forums will not be able to develop firm proposals in time for decision by the December Local Committee. Furthermore it

would be too late in the financial year to effectively implement any proposals that are tabled at the March Local Committee.

- 2.3 In order to ensure that projects can be delivered from the Business Travel Forums this financial year, it is proposed that the Local Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman are given delegated authority to consider the proposals from the business travel forums, determining which proposals should receive funding. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman will consider these proposals in consultation with the LSTF task group.
- 2.4 During financial years 2013/14 and 2014/15, decision making on the proposals will revert back to the Local Committee. It is likely that these proposals will be considered at the future September Local Committee meetings.
- 2.5 Proposals from the Business Travel Forums for this financial year will be circulated to all Local Committee members via email for information, and the LSTF task group will be able to provide comment on the proposals.
- 2.6 A report providing details about the proposals that have been funded in the 2012/13 financial year will be submitted to the March 2013 Local Committee meeting.

3 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Businesses developing ideas will be supported by Surrey County Council is developing proposals which will be assessed for value for money prior to submission to the Local Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman

4 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been developed for Travel SMART's overall Business travel planning package, and did not cite any specific actions relating to the Business Travel Forum work.

5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

6 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Due to the limited timescales for delivering the 2012/13 LSTF programme, it is necessary to expedite the Business Travel Forum process to ensure projects can be delivered this financial year.
- 6.2 It is proposed that representatives of the Local Committee, the Business Champions, will work with the Business Travel Forums to develop proposals to be funded this financial year.
- 6.3 It is proposed that the Local Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman will decide upon the proposals developed from the Business Travel Forums in this financial year.
- 6.5 **The Local Committee (Reigate and Banstead) is asked to:**
- i) Delegate authority to the Chair of the Local Committee and the appointed business champions to preside over proposals from the forums for implementation this financial year (2012/13) only.

6.6 Reason for recommendation

Because of the delay in receiving funding from the Dept for Transport for the Travel SMART programme, it has not been possible to establish Business Travel Forums and develop proposals quickly enough to be submitted in line with the Local Committee timetable such that available funds can be spent this financial year.

7 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 7.1 Proposals from the Business Travel Forums will be submitted to the Local Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman for decision as soon as proposals have been developed.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: Local Sustainable Transport Fund bid – Surrey Travel SMART (December 2011).