

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**HIGHWAYS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS  
CABINET MEMBER**

**STRATEGIC TRANSPORT UPDATE**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To update the Cabinet Member on a range of Strategic Transport issues.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The Transport Planning team in Highways deals with a range of regional and national transport issues relating to major transport projects.
- 2.2 Work relating to the Humber and Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) is progressing at a rapid pace. In relation to transport, DfT are contributing over one third of the Local Growth Fund from 2015 onwards. It is important we are involved in the prioritisation process for this funding to ensure North Lincolnshire can deliver some of its strategic transport priorities.
- 2.3 The role of rail has grown considerably over the last 18 months. The Transport Planning Manager is undertaking the majority of this work.
- 2.4 A briefing paper is attached to this report. This updates the Cabinet Member on a number of key issues.

**3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 **Option one** – To note the briefing on key issues and progress on major transport schemes and projects

**4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

5.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report.

6. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

6.1 Not Applicable.

7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

7.1 Consultation on strategic transport matters is carried out by the Humber or Greater Lincolnshire LEP on regional issues.

7.2 In relation to projects in North Lincolnshire, consultation is completed on a project by project basis as part of the overall schedule of works

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That the Cabinet Member notes the progress to date on Strategic Transport issues.

8.2 That the Cabinet Member receives a further report in three months time, updating on further process.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

Civic Centre  
Ashby Road  
SCUNTHORPE  
North Lincolnshire  
DN16 1AB  
Author: Jodie Booth  
Date: 18 February 2014

**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report**  
Briefing Paper – Strategic Transport Issues – February 2014

## **Update on key Strategic Transport projects**

**18 February 2014**

### **Humber Local Transport Body – Devolved funding projects**

The Humber Local Transport Body (LTB) approved the list of Local Major Transport Schemes for funding 2015-19, through the Single Local Growth Deal.

These schemes are now required to work up a full business case in preparation for construction during that period. The full business case must be compliant with the Department for Transport (DfT) *Transport Business Case* requirements.

For North Lincolnshire, this applies to the South Humber Ports Gauge Enhancement Scheme.

A list of reserved schemes were also approved. Humberside International Airport Surface Access Improvements was amongst this list. We are now advised to work up this scheme for potential future funding. However, this is at our own risk as there is no guarantee of funding through this mechanism.

Following the Pinch Point Fund announcement, two schemes that were previously prioritised (from East Riding and North East Lincolnshire Councils) have been awarded funding. Therefore, we are now in discussions on how we prioritise which schemes will now be approved for the funding gap this has created and whether we can utilise the Local Growth Fund for bigger benefit to infrastructure.

### **Gauge Enhancements**

An independent co-ordinator has been appointed on behalf of the Humber LTB to oversee the development of the business cases for all approved schemes.

A meeting was held with the project co-ordinator, North Lincolnshire Council and Network Rail on 19 November to discuss the next steps and requirements going forward.

Project timescales, phasing and funding will now be clarified, along with a programme for completing the full business case and progressing the scheme to 'programme entry' status.

The project managers from both NLC and Network Rail will be responsible for the governance arrangements and overseeing the project. An agreed way of working is now being drawn up, including a 'development agreement' and regular progress meetings organised.

The timescales for the project now need to be revised as we have identified potential efficiencies by moving the project forward and tying in with Network Rail blockades in Christmas 2015. This would require a larger spend in 2015/16, and then the majority of the works completed in 2016/17.

The Council's funding contribution to this project is £0.8m.

Project meetings and arrangements are continuing between North Lincolnshire Council and Network Rail.

## **Setting priorities – Local Growth Deal**

Both the Humber and Greater Lincolnshire LEPs are progressing with their Strategic Economic Plans following the announcement of the Local Growth Fund.

### **Humber LEP**

The Humber has held meetings to discuss further. Humber Transport Officers are continually meeting with DfT to discuss the Transport elements of the Humber SEP.

EOI's have been completed for the Humber SEP. Concerns have been raised regarding timescales and involvement from Highways.

### **Greater Lincolnshire LEP**

Greater Lincolnshire LEP held a workshop on 18 November to progress further. Officers from North and North East Lincolnshire were present. We put forward and discussed priorities that are similar to those for the Humber LEP, to ensure consistency. A subsequent meeting was held on 17 February to progress the Greater Lincolnshire SEP further. Schemes are beginning to go through the prioritisation process.

A meeting will be held later in February with East Midlands DfT office to discuss the transport elements of the Greater Lincolnshire SEP.

## **A160/A180 – Port of Immingham Improvements**

Regular liaison meetings are held. The scheme is progressing on schedule.

Working relationships with the project team are excellent and a good way of working has been established.

The scheme is due to start construction Spring 2015, completion in Autumn 2016, subject to the National Infrastructure Directorate requirements and approvals.

A positive announcement has been received. The A160 DCO has been accepted by PiNS. This is slightly earlier than expected and enables the Project Team to press on with the necessary planning and statutory procedures.

## **Devolution of Rail Services – Rail North**

Through the Government's intention to devolve rail services, Rail North has been established. Rail North is led by the large Transport Authorities in the North of England (ie. West Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, South Yorkshire, Merseyside) and includes the boundaries of 33 local authorities (including North Lincolnshire). Rail North has put a proposition to Government to take responsibility for rail services in the North, including the new Transpennine and Northern rail services once the franchise is relet.

In November 2013, Government announced that it would not enter full devolution with Rail North at this time, but would enter a Partnership Arrangement. The Secretary of State for Transport attended a meeting of Rail North colleagues and

Leader's from the North's authorities on Friday to provide further details on how this would work.

The 33 authorities are involved in the work, including the production and consultation on a Long Term Rail Strategy for the North.

An East of the Pennines Rail Group was set up almost a year ago (and also one West of the Pennines) for the smaller authorities. We have been actively involved in this group. There are still major concerns on whether we will be effectively and actively represented in any new arrangement led by Rail North.

The Leaders (and Chief Executives) are involved in this work and regular briefings and meetings/correspondence is circulated/attended. Cllr Liz Redfern and Simon Driver are kept fully aware of developments.

Cllr Redfern represents the Humber (with Officer Support from the Strategic Transport Manager) on the Leaders Forum for Rail North.

### **East Coast Mainline Authorities Groupings**

An East Coast Mainline Consortium was set up to ensure that Authorities views were given to Government in a collective way to influence the reletting of the East Coast MainLine franchise and also to ensure a clear and firm message is sent to Government on the need for investment.

We are involved in this group and the current work that involves producing an economic case for investment. This is not limited to those areas that are directly served by the ECML, but also those areas that have key connecting services to the ECML and the cities it serves.

### **High Speed 2**

The Department for Transport are currently in a consultation period of HS2. We have met (as the Humber Transport Officers) with the HS2 team from DfT to here their proposals further.

It is apparent that HS2 will provide little benefit to North Lincolnshire (or the wider Humber area). Important to the Humber area is ensuring investment in the existing network and better connectivity to the ECML now and particularly with the introduction of HS2.

The consultation period ended on 31 January. We have responded as part of a wider Humber LEP response and a South Humber response.

### **Local Sustainable Transport Fund – Revenue Element**

We have agreed to submit an 'International Gateways: Area Wide Travel Plan' bid for LSTF funding. This will be a joint bid with North East Lincolnshire Council.

We will be meeting with DfT to discuss our ideas further to ensure we submit a strong bid.

Jodie Booth  
18 February 2014