

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**HIGHWAYS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS
CABINET MEMBER**

HUMBER LOCAL TRANSPORT BODY

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Cabinet Member of recent developments with regard to the establishment of Local Transport Bodies.
- 1.2 The Department for Transport (DfT) has announced its intention to devolve funding for local major transport schemes (previously the RFA) from 2015 (the next spending review period).
- 1.3 The new decision making body for the devolved funding will be Local Transport Bodies (LTBs).
- 1.4 It has been agreed at the Unitary Leader's group that the Humber will form a Local Transport Body. Therefore North Lincolnshire will be part of an LTB with East Riding of Yorkshire, Hull City and North East Lincolnshire Councils.
- 1.5 Each LTB must now ensure that an assurance framework, setting out governance and working arrangements is in place by February 2013, and proposals are submitted to Government.
- 1.6 By July 2013, a provisional list of prioritised schemes for the Humber must be submitted to DfT. The shortlist of schemes will have been appraised and prioritised by independent consultants prior to the submission.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Local Major Transport schemes were previously prioritised through the Regional Funding Allocation (RFA) for the Yorkshire and Humber area. To qualify for bidding into this pot, schemes had to be of regional significance and cost over £5m.
- 2.2 The current Government recognises that transport is vital to the local economy. They want to see decisions made on a more local level and more efficiently than previously.

- 2.3 A group consisting of two representatives from the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), the Leader of each local authority and portfolio holder for Economic Development or Transport from each of the four authorities will make these decisions. This will make up the membership of the Humber Economic and Transport Strategy Board. This group will act as the LTB for the Humber area.
- 2.4 Underneath the Humber LTB will be an Officer Working Group made up of the Strategic Transport Officers from the four Humber authorities. This working group will make recommendations on schemes to the Board. The group will also prepare the required detail on individual schemes against Government's requirements.
- 2.5 In September 2012 Government approved the Humber LTB. Now the LTB must ensure that its assurance framework is in place by December 2012 and a prioritised list of schemes approved by July 2013. These are Government deadlines.
- 2.6 The assurance framework will consist of three elements. It is currently being worked up by the Humber Transport Officers and its consultants. The three elements are:
- Purpose, structure and operating principles
 - Prioritisation
 - Programme management and investment decisions
- 2.7 The LTB will agree the final assurance framework before submission to Government.
- 2.8 The Humber LTB are proposing to remove the minimum £5m threshold for a more locally appropriate amount of £1m. However, the amount of schemes that can be approved between £1m - £2m will be limited.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The four Humber authorities are currently preparing a provisional list of schemes (a maximum of five from each local authority) for possible funding through the devolved local major pot. This provisional list will then be assessed against a set criteria before the final list is sent to Government by the July deadline.
- 3.2 The proposed provisional list of schemes suggested for North Lincolnshire are as follows:
- Dualling of Rosper Road within the South Humber Gateway.
 - Humberside International Airport – Access improvements (including roundabout).
 - Gauge enhancements – South Humber Gateway to ECML (Doncaster) – RAIL.

- South Humber Gateway internal road infrastructure (to enable the South Humber Gateway to 'reach its full potential' – this also includes and overlaps with North East Lincolnshire's network).
- Initial Lincolnshire Lakes highways requirements.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Government requirements insist on us having an assurance framework for the LTB by February 2013 and a provisional list of schemes by April 2013.
- 4.2 The Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways and Neighbourhoods (as portfolio holder for Transport) must be members and attend the meetings of the LTB to ensure that the views of North Lincolnshire and project proposals are given equal weighting to those from other Local Authorities.
- 4.3 We must ensure that our provisional list of schemes in North Lincolnshire goes forward to the next assessment stage for possible future funding.
- 4.4 If the Humber LTB does not get this process right, it could affect future allocations of major funding from DfT.

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

- 5.1 There is potential for local major transport scheme funding to come into the authority post 2015. This funding must deliver key identified infrastructure projects.
- 5.2 A percentage of contribution to funding may be required for schemes going forward. This can be identified from council or external funding sources.
- 5.3 If any scheme is given the go ahead from North Lincolnshire, staff resources will be required in drawing up business cases, designing schemes, fulfil DfT criteria including WebTag assessments and throughout the project and post evaluation.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

- 6.1 None

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

7.1 Schemes identified for the prioritised list are included in LTP3 and/or the LDF. Both of these processes have had extensive consultation periods and events.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the Cabinet Member approves the proposed provisional list of schemes for North Lincolnshire set out in paragraph 3.2 above.

8.2 That the Cabinet Member agrees to participate as a member of the Humber Economic and Transport Strategy Board.

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None