

WATFORD HIGHWAYS JOINT MEMBER PANEL
Thurs 27th October 2011

INFORMATION NOTE

Local Sustainable Transport Fund

Author: Andy Summers

Tel: 01992 556193

1 Purpose of information note

1.1 To inform the Panel of:

- The award by the Department for Transport (DfT) of £1.99m to Hertfordshire County Council for 2011/12 from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF).
- The short-listing by the DfT of the County Council's stage 2 bid of £10.755 for 2012/13 to 2014/15.

2 Summary

- 2.1 On 15th March 2011, the County Council Highways and Transport Panel recommended the submission of a bid to the LSTF for a package of measures within the geographical triangle comprising Watford, Hemel Hempstead and St Albans.
- 2.2 On 5th July, the DfT announced that Hertfordshire's stage 1 bid was successful and awarded £1.99m for a package of sustainable transport interventions, entitled **BIGHERTSBIGIDEAS**, which could be implemented by 31st March 2012.
- 2.3 The DfT announced in August 2011 that Hertfordshire's stage 2 proposal, for a £10.755m package of measures to be implemented over 2012/13 to 2014/15, had been short-listed for further development. The County Council now has to submit a full business case to the DfT by 20th December 2011.

3 Conclusion

- 3.1 It is important that the £1.99m awarded for the stage 1 bid is all spent this financial year on the delivery of the measures set out in the bid document, to ensure Hertfordshire is in a strong position to be awarded the stage 2 bid of £10.755m over 2012/3 – 2014/15.
- 3.2 The County Council must submit a full business case for the stage 2 bid by 20th December 2011. Evidence of District Council and other partner support for the package within this business case will be important in demonstrating a local commitment to delivering the package (one of the DfT's key requirements for the LSTF).

4 Background Information

- 4.1 The Department for Transport announced the formation of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund in December 2010. The fund of £560m is for local authorities in England (outside London) to bid for packages of sustainable transport measures that assist the two key objectives of enhancing economic growth and reducing carbon emissions.
- 4.2 On 15th March, the County Council Highways and Transport Panel agreed that Hertfordshire should submit a bid for Watford, Hemel Hempstead and St Albans, consisting of a range of complementary measures, including walking and cycling infrastructure, passenger transport infrastructure, travel planning and Intelligent Transport Systems.
- 4.3 There were a number of entry points to the LSTF, however HCC decided upon the following bidding option:
- A stage 1 bid (i.e. the *Key Component* bid) for £1.99m for 2011/12 was submitted to the DfT on 18th April 2011, and;
 - An *Initial Proposal* for a stage 2 bid of £10.755m was submitted on 6th June 2011.
- 4.4 The bid was well supported by a range of partners. Written evidence of support 'backing the bid' was received from over 40 businesses, organisations and community groups, including the Local Enterprise Partnership, the district councils, the University of Hertfordshire, Hertfordshire NHS, the Maylands Partnership and three local MPs. In order to make the bid identifiable to partners and to stand out from the other bids received by the DfT, the package was branded **BIGHERTSBIGIDEAS**.
- 4.5 The DfT announced on 5th July 2011 that Hertfordshire's stage 1 '*Key Component*' bid for £1.99m for 2011/12 had been approved. It was reported by DfT that competition for funding was very high, and at a national level only 39 out of 73 bids were approved in stage 1.
- 4.6 Following this, on 3rd August 2011, the DfT announced that Hertfordshire's stage 2 initial proposal for £10.755m had been short-listed. This means that a full business case, including a full economic appraisal and credible delivery programme, needs to be submitted to the DfT by 20th December 2011. Hertfordshire is the only local transport authority in the East of England to have been short-listed in the stage 2 'Large Project' category.

References

LSTF Key Component Bid, Hertfordshire County Council, 18th April 2011

and

LSTF Large Project Initial Proposal, Hertfordshire County Council, 6th June 2011

Both at:

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/transtreets/transplan/ltp/lstfund2011/>

'Transport boost of over £150M to create growth and cut carbon', Press Release, Department for Transport, 5th July 2011

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/news/press-releases/dft-press-20110705>

Local Sustainable Transport Fund - Successful bidders and guidance on the application process (website), Department for Transport, 5th July 2011

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/local-sustainable-transport-fund-guidance-on-the-application-process/>

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