REGIONAL TRANSPORT FORUM – 11 March 2011

Budget Statement

Report by: Dave Humby, Head of Transportation Planning and Policy, Hertfordshire County Council

Purpose of report:

- To inform members on the budget situation of the Forum and consider future arrangements for funding the Secretariat.

Recommendations:

1. To approve the budget statement
2. That the fund be used to meet the reasonable costs of running the Secretariat during the transition year
3. That no request for subscriptions is made for 2011/12

Background

1.1 At its meeting on 7 June 2006 the Forum agreed to establish a fund to support the commissioning of studies and other work of the Forum rather than seek contributions on a project by project basis.

1.2 It was agreed that each County should contribute £6000 and each Unitary £3000. This will be reviewed annually and Hertfordshire County Council will manage the fund and bring a budget statement to each Forum meeting. If all the authorities pay their appropriate financial contribution £48,000 income would be generated per annum.

Budget Statement

2.1 It was reported to the RTF meeting on 14th January that the current balance stands at £50,588.25.

2.2 There has been no expenditure from the fund since the last meeting and there are currently no commitments for further expenditure. A previous commitment made by the Forum at its meeting in December 2009 to consider providing financial support for the DASTS study programme in 2010/11 is now unlikely to be needed as government has made no announcement to proceed with Phase 2 of the study programme.

2.3 RTF agreed at its meeting on 14th January that the credit remaining in the fund should be used to assist in funding for the Secretariat of RTF during the transition year 2011/12 until the future of the Forum has been determined. It was also agreed that a report would be submitted to this meeting of the Forum giving the potential costs of the secretariat and recommending that the fund should be used to meet the costs associated with RTF and STSG. At the time of drafting this report details of the likely costs have not been received.
and it is assumed that an oral update will be made by officers at the meeting. Members will be invited to agree that the fund should be used to meet the costs of the secretariat if they consider the estimated cost to be reasonable.

2.4 In view of the current balance, and no specific commitments for using the fund for its intended purpose, no subscriptions for 2010/11 have been requested. In view of the current proposals for the future of the Forum and the current financial climate it is suggested that there is no need to request subscriptions for 2011/12. The position can be reviewed throughout the year and a further decision can be made if a project is identified which might require funding beyond the current balance.

3 Conclusions

3.1 The budget statement is submitted for information and approval.

3.2 It is recommended that the fund be used to meet the reasonable costs of running the Secretariat during the transition year.

3.3 It is recommended that no request for subscriptions is made for 2011/12.