Report for Information - Agenda Item 9b

REGIONAL TRANSPORT FORUM – 11 MARCH 2011

Local Major Transport Schemes Update

Report by: EEDET STSG

Purpose of report:

To update the RTF on recent announcements from DfT on the programme of Local Major Transport Schemes in the East of England.

Recommendations:

This report is for information.

1 Background

1.1 The RTF meeting on 14 January 2011 considered a report detailing the outcome of the Spending Review announcements made in October 2010 on transport funding in the East of England, including the situation on Local and National Major Transport Schemes. This report now informs the RTF of announcements relating to Local Major Schemes made since 14 January.

2 Current Situation

2.1 Under the previous Government, Local Authority Major Transport Scheme funding from the Department for Transport (DfT) had been prioritised by the East of England through the Regional Funding Allocation (RFA) process. The new Government suspended that process and as part of the October 2010 Spending Review announced that local authority schemes formerly identified in the RTF programme were allocated to 3 categories for funding purposes. Schemes not considered to be fundable by DfT during the current Spending Review period were thus designated as Not Supported during the current Spending Review period.

2.2 For schemes in the three categories still potentially eligible for funding, further information, including firm and final details of the funding arrangements in the case of Supported Schemes, had to be submitted for consideration at DfT by 23 December 2010. Expressions of Interest were required for the schemes in the Pre-Qualification Pool. The DfT announced the outcome of the process on 4 February 2011. The schemes and their new status are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Local Major Transport Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Original Funding Sought (£m)</th>
<th>Current Funding Sought (£m)</th>
<th>October 2010 Pool</th>
<th>February 2011 Pool</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ipswich Fit for the 21\textsuperscript{st} Century</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>Supported</td>
<td>Funding Confirmed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norwich Northern Distributor Road</td>
<td>67.5</td>
<td>67.5</td>
<td>Development Pool</td>
<td>Development Pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watford Junction Interchange</td>
<td>26.0</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>Pre-Qualification</td>
<td>Not supported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luton Town Centre Transport Scheme</td>
<td>22.1</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>Pre-Qualification</td>
<td>Development Pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Essex Rapid Transit</td>
<td>53.3</td>
<td>29.3</td>
<td>Pre-Qualification</td>
<td>Development Pool</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.3 The Ipswich Fit for 21st Century Scheme with Funding Confirmed status will now be able to progress towards construction subject to securing any remaining necessary planning and statutory approvals and subject to confirmation of value for money where material changes have been proposed.

2.4 Of the schemes originally in the Pre-qualification Pool, three have been promoted to the Development Pool. However it must be noted that not all schemes in the Development Pool will eventually be funded by DfT. The DfT will therefore continue to work with the promoters of new and existing Development Pool schemes to try to achieve further savings when the promoters of all schemes in the Pool submit their Best and Final Funding Bids by September 2011. Decisions on funding of Development Pool schemes are expected from DfT by the end of 2011.

2.5 The selection of schemes for promotion to the Development Pool was based on their potential to offer value for money, their ability and willingness to offer savings to the DfT and, in the case of five structural maintenance schemes, the potential importance of the work to the integrity of the existing road network.

2.6 The Watford Junction Interchange Scheme has not been promoted to the Development Pool and is therefore now in the Not Supported category where it will not receive DfT funding via the Local Major Scheme process during the current Spending Review period.

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