

**West of England Partnership
Joint Transport Executive Committee
12 November 2009**

Rapid Transit Ashton Vale to Temple Meads and Bristol City Centre

Purpose of Report

1. To note the programme for its development and to recommend to Bristol City Council and North Somerset Council that the application for a Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO) is approved.

Background

2. In March 2009 the project submitted a programme entry Major Scheme Business Case (MSBC) to the Department for Transport (DfT) for the Ashton Vale to Temple Meads and Bristol City Centre Rapid Transit Scheme. The purpose of the submission is to achieve programme entry status and therefore gain access to the £43.12 million of regional funding available to the scheme through the South West Regional Funding Allocation (RFA) from 2011/12 to 2013/14. The submission of the MSBC and scheme proposal was approved by Bristol City Council Cabinet at the meeting on 02 February 2009 and North Somerset Council Executive at the meeting on 17 February 2009.
3. Once programme entry approval is granted by DfT, and subject to ministerial approval, the project can move to the next stage of development – applying for the appropriate consents and permissions to build and operate the scheme.
4. Since March 2009 the project has been undertaking further development work on preparing the scheme for the planning process. This has included obtaining specialist advice on the next stages of work and the appropriate ways in applying for the required permissions and consents. The project intends to seek a TWAO to gain the necessary powers for the segregated section of the route. This is a relatively lengthy and complex process usually including a public inquiry, but does give the power to both build and operate the scheme in one process.

Progress

5. After submission of the MSBC in March and positive discussions with DfT, programme entry approval was expected in early October 2009. However, DfT is still in the process of reviewing some aspects of the MSBC and this timescale is now likely to be November 2009. Once this status is achieved a TWAO application can be submitted.
6. In addition to programme entry approval, a necessary precursor to applying for a TWAO is achieving approval from both Bristol City Council and North Somerset Council full Councils (the “first resolution”). A programme of reporting and presenting the resolution to fit with Council, Cabinet and Joint Transport Executive Committee meetings is proposed in Appendix 1.

Programme

7. It is anticipated that programme entry approval will be achieved in November 2009. The project also plans to report to Bristol City Council Cabinet on 26 November 2009 and North Somerset Council Executive on 15 December 2009 to gain its support for the resolution and to recommend it to the full Council meetings. This revised timescale will allow for the completion and reporting of the current round of consultation on the scheme to that meeting.
8. To gain approval the resolution must be tabled at both Bristol City Council and North Somerset Council full Councils and passed by a majority of all Council members. In order to include the resolution at a full Council meeting, an advertisement of the recommendation as an agenda item for the full Council meetings must be placed 30 days prior to the meetings. To this end, it is envisaged that the project will be taking the recommendation to apply for TWAO powers to Bristol City Council full Council on 19 January 2010 and North Somerset Council full Council on 5 January 2010. The advert would have to be placed by 04 December 2009. Once the resolutions are passed the TWAO application could be made immediately.
9. The TWAO process requires that a second resolution, to confirm the first and the subsequent application itself, be passed by both full Councils on the same basis as the first resolution i.e. by a majority of all Council members. 14 days must have elapsed following the TWAO application before the second resolution can be made. The February full Council meetings for both Councils on 23 February 2010 are those that consider the Budget. On this basis, it is proposed to submit the second resolution to the next full Council meetings that are on 02 March 2010 (North Somerset Council) and 30 March 2010 (Bristol City Council).

Recommendation







That the Committee notes the process and programme as set out above and recommends that Bristol City Council and North Somerset Council approve the application for TWAO at full Council.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Ashton Vale to Temple Meads and Bristol City Centre Rapid Transit – Key Dates

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Ashton Vale to Temple Meads and Bristol City Centre Rapid Transit – Key Dates

	October	November	December	January	February
Programme Entry Approval					
Publication of Council meeting advertisements					
First S.239 Resolution					
NSC first resolution					
BCC first resolution					
TWA Application					
TWA application submitted					
Second S.239 Resolution					
NSC second resolution					
BCC second resolution					