

West of England Partnership Board
3 December 2009

Report of Chief Executive

Update on Partnership progress

1. The report provides an update on highlights of Partnership activity since September. The diary of Partnership Board, Joint Committee and Board meetings, with copies of papers for each meeting, can be found on the Partnership website (www.westofengland.org).

Transport

2. This section deals with the development of the major transport schemes programme. The Joint Local Transport Plan 3 is covered in a separate report to this meeting.

Major Schemes

3. The major schemes programme represents over £450m of new transport infrastructure to be delivered in the West of England over the next 10 years. Bringing forward these schemes requires a significant commitment of resources from the authorities to progress through the lengthy scheme development and Government approvals process. The authorities, with the Department for Transport (DfT), are continuing to take steps to reduce the cost and increase the pace of development through the actions and asks in the Multi-Area Agreement (MAA).
4. The revised Regional Funding Allocation (RFA2) endorsed by Government in Summer 2009 prioritised 11 sub-regional schemes. These schemes now need to meet DfT value for money and other business case criteria. A short summary of the RFA2 schemes is provided below, with schemes broadly categorised based upon their stage of development. A summary of the forecast impacts and outcomes of the four most advanced schemes, requested at the last meeting by Cllr Ruth Davis, is shown in Appendix 1.
5. Given the impact of the recession on public finance it is recognised that RFA funding is likely to be reduced in the coming years. The DfT have asked the Region to carry out scenario testing to consider how it would respond to reduced Government funding. This work is continuing. The effective development and delivery of schemes, to programme and budget, will further strengthen the case for West of England investment as the current Regional programme is revised.

1) Schemes under Construction

Greater Bristol Bus Network (GBBN)

6. As reported to the Joint Transport Executive Committee on 1 October, progress on delivering the £70m package of investment in improving bus services on 10 key corridors is progressing well. All the grant funded GBBN tasks are programmed to

be completed by June 2011. GBBN is well on the way to delivering the project's 944 improved bus stops including raised kerbs for level access, 22 junctions with bus priority and nearly 9km of new bus or priority lanes. Over 120 new low floor buses with reduced emissions are already in operation.

2) Schemes with Programme Entry (accepted into Governments funding programme)

Bath Transportation Package

7. Following the Government Office decision that the A4 Eastern Bath Park & Ride and the Newbridge Park & Ride expansion and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) would not be subject to a public inquiry, Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO) notices were made in September to seek to acquire the land required for the scheme. In the summer a public consultation has been undertaken on the City Centre proposals to create a more pedestrian and cyclist-friendly environment through the introduction of access changes on a number of streets. Bath and North East Somerset Council aims to have all planning permissions in place, all land assembled and a preferred bidder with agreed costs identified by Spring 2010, in order to submit to DfT for Conditional and Full Approval.

3) Schemes with bids submitted but awaiting Programme Entry

Rapid Transit Ashton Vale to Temple Meads and Bristol City Centre

8. A Programme Entry bid for this scheme was submitted on 30 March 2009. Since then regular meetings have been held with DfT and the review and appraisal of the bid is progressing well with the hope Programme Entry will be granted in the coming weeks. Work has been progressing on the next stage of the process which requires the Authorities to apply for the required powers and consents to build and operate the Rapid Transit Scheme. It is intended to seek these powers via a Transport and Works Act Order for which a decision to proceed requires resolution at full Council in Bristol and North Somerset. The first meeting is planned for January 2010.

Weston Package Phase 1

9. A Programme Entry bid for this scheme was submitted on 20 April 2009. Following resolution of a number of technical queries from DfT it is hoped Programme Entry will be granted in the next few weeks. The opportunity has been taken to use an innovative approach with this scheme (termed de-coupling) which enables certain elements, named the Low Cost Option, to be brought forward without having to wait for other components which are reliant upon developer contributions. The Low Cost Option includes improvements to M5 Junction 21, the Gateway Area on the A370 and Worle Station (including Queen's Way Bus Link & Elmham Way Bus Priority).

4) Schemes with bids planned to be submitted Spring 2010

South Bristol Link

10. At the Joint Transport Executive Committee on 1 October it was agreed that further work would be undertaken to bring forward a preferred option for this scheme. The two month consultation on this preferred option for a combined road and Rapid Transit route on an inner alignment ends on 31 December. Feedback on the

consultation will be reported early in the New Year with a view to submitting a bid for Programme Entry in March 2010.

North Fringe to Hengrove Package

11. This scheme encompasses a number of elements or projects which sit within the overall programme, including a Rapid Transit route between Hengrove and Bristol City Centre, M32 Park & Ride, Rapid Transit routes to the North Fringe and Emerson's Green, and the Stoke Gifford Transport Link. To help this scheme meet its challenging timescale, it is being used as an MAA identified pilot scheme involving a more collaborative approach with DfT to identify opportunities to accelerate scheme development. It is hoped this will involve a better and earlier understanding by DfT of the nature of the scheme and way in which the business case will be developed. Consultation on the preferred package is planned to commence in early December with the aim to submit a bid for Programme Entry status in March 2010.

5) Longer term schemes with bids 2011 or after

12. The RFA programme also includes 5 additional schemes to be implemented from 2014 onwards, namely the Portishead Rail Corridor, Greater Bristol Metro Rail Project, M5 Junction 21 Bypass, Callington Road Link/Bath Road Improvements, and Emerson's Green to Temple Meads Rapid Transit. Development work on these schemes is planned in line with their implementation profile.

Planning

13. **Joint Waste Core Strategy:** Work has been progressing on the Joint Waste Core Strategy, which will set out the sub-regional spatial planning policy for the provision of facilities to treat municipal, industrial and commercial waste. A draft Submission Document has been prepared for consideration by Cabinets and Councils throughout October/November. If approved by all four Councils, the Submission Document will be published for consultation on a 'test of soundness' throughout January and February 2010.
14. **Sub-Regional Infrastructure requirements:** Consultants, Roger Tym & Partners, were appointed last May to undertake a study of strategic infrastructure requirements arising across the West of England at the key development locations of the sub-region. Their draft report of the study identifies in broad terms:
 - Firstly, the infrastructure needed at the key development locations, the costs and funding of this infrastructure and crucially, the implications for development viability;
 - Secondly, the key barriers to development, relationships between development and infrastructure provision and the implications for development timing and progress; and,
 - Thirdly, what the public sector can do to support the delivery of infrastructure and thereby enhance prospects for the delivery of development.
15. The draft report includes a large number of specific conclusions about infrastructure requirements and prospects for development at each of the 13 key development locations assessed.

16. ***Single Conversation and the Joint Integrated Investment and Delivery Plan:***
The Partnership Office is preparing the strategic case for the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) investment in the West of England and co-ordinating specific development proposals by the councils where HCA and SWRDA support is requested. The proposals include bringing forward major developments, securing affordable and supported housing schemes and delivering economic prosperity. The strategic case for investment is being assembled by reference to the Multi-Area Agreement, a prospectus for Economic Prosperity which sets out key opportunities for investing in business growth and prosperity, and the priorities of the local authorities.
17. Following the assembly of priority proposals by the local authorities the first 'Conversation' with HCA and SWRDA was held on 6 November. Further 'Conversations' are planned for 20 November and 3 and 14 December. These Conversations include the presentation of the West of England case for investment, consideration of specific proposals and negotiation with the Agencies. Future meetings will include representatives from the Environment Agency, Highways Agency and other public bodies and infrastructure providers.
18. In addition, further work is being undertaken towards a review of previously established development trajectories and requirements for infrastructure and taking into account prospects for delivery. This work will provide the essential outcome of the 'Single Conversation'- the Joint Integrated Investment and Delivery Plan. It will take account of the impacts of the recession, the draft Roger Tym study, other work on sub-regional employment land requirements and the need for further strategic policy guidance to reinforce Core Strategy delivery. The work will acknowledge the uncertainties about the RSS and the emerging development proposals of the Core Strategies.

Culture, Leisure & Tourism Group

19. Following the discussion at the September Board meeting and further consideration by authority chief executives, the Partnership Office has been asked to discontinue this Group. Papers for past meetings will continue to be available on the Partnership website. The authorities' Culture Officers have been discussing how they will continue to co-operate without this support.

West of England Conference

20. The Conference will take place at @t Bristol on Friday 27 November, after dispatch of papers. A copy of the programme is attached at Appendix 2 and a verbal report will be given at the meeting.

Recommendation

That Board members give their views and note the report.

Appendices

Appendix 1: West of England Major Transport Schemes with Bids Submitted to
Government – Forecast Impacts and Outcomes

Appendix 2: West of England Partnership Conference Programme

Terry Wagstaff, Chief Executive

Tel. 0117 922 2639, e mail: terry.wagstaff@westofengland.org

Appendix 1: West of England Major Transport Schemes with Bids Submitted to Government – Forecast Impacts and Outcomes

Scheme	Infrastructure	Congestion, Traffic and Accidents	Public Transport Usage	Environment
Greater Bristol Bus Network (GBBN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 944 improved bus stops ● Over 120 new low floor buses ● 301 bus stops with real time passenger information displays ● 22 junctions with bus priority signals ● 8.6km of new bus or priority lane 	<p>Compared to the situation in 2011 without the scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 7% reduction in forecast increase in journey times in the Greater Bristol area ● 8% reduction in forecast increase in area-wide road traffic mileage ● Further 25% reduction in accidents with people Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) 	<p>Compared to the situation in 2011 without the scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3.9 million more bus journeys per year ● 2% increase in rail journeys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reduction in carbon emissions of 47,771 tonnes over project lifetime ● Reduction in concentration of NO₂ to 44 micrograms per m³ in Bristol Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in 2011 compared to 46 micrograms per m³ without the scheme
Bath Transportation Package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase of 125% in Park and Ride parking spaces ● Access changes in city centre streets to create a more pedestrian and cycle friendly environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1.5 million reduction in cars entering the City per year ● Annual reduction of 5 million kilometres in car travel undertaken within the city ● Avoidance of 321 accidents over the next 60 years including 3 fatalities and 35 serious casualties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2.2 million more public transport journeys per year 	<p>Annual emission savings of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2.1 tonnes of NOx ● 10.9 tonnes CO ● 1,500 tonnes of CO₂
Ashton Vale to Temple Meads Rapid Transit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 4km new segregated busway and some 3km of bus lanes in Bristol city centre ● New parallel pedestrian route/cycleway and links to existing network ● 10 new Rapid Transit stops ● New fleet of low floor, low emission buses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3,200 fewer vehicle trips across the network per day ● 0.13% reduction in personal injury accidents across the West of England area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● By 2016, 7,400 trips per day made by Rapid Transit ● 87% increase in peak period public transport capacity in the corridor ● Journey times reduced from 26 to 12 minutes ● 20,400 people live within 600m walking distance of a Rapid Transit stop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reduction of carbon emissions of 4,137 tonnes over the project lifetime ● 17,000 people live within 600m walking distance of the parallel pedestrian route/cycleway
Weston Package Phase 1 Low Cost Option	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New 320 space station car park with bus interchange and cycle parking ● New bus only link, 2km of road widening including roundabouts and a 500m bus lane ● 2 junctions with bus priority signals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Significant reductions in congestion, particularly at Junction 21 in the afternoon peak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improved interchange and bus priority measures could facilitate an increase in public transport journeys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 19.7 tonne reduction in NOx emissions and 0.4 tonne reduction in PM10 emissions in the opening year



West of England Partnership

Bath & North East
Somerset Council



North
Somerset
COUNCIL

South Gloucestershire
Council

Meeting the Challenges - Achieving our Ambitions

Conference Programme - Friday 27 November 2009 – @t Bristol

9.00 **Registration & Coffee**

9.25 **Welcome and Introduction**

Cllr John Calway, Partnership Chair and Leader, South Gloucestershire Council

9.30 **Keynote speaker**

Martin Boddy, Associate Dean and Professor of Urban and Regional Studies, University of West of England

10.00 **Workshops 1 and 2**

Delivering a Sustainable Transport System

**Challenges - Minimising the impact of transport on the environment;
reducing carbon emissions**

- **Supporting economic growth, tackling congestion and improving journey times**
- **Promoting use of alternatives to the car and encouraging sustainable travel behaviour**
- **Improving health and access to employment and local services**
- **Improving safety for all road users**

Presentations by:

- Barbara Davies, Head of Joint Transport, West of England Partnership
- Justin Davies, Managing Director, First Bristol, Somerset & Avon
- Sharon Daly, Transport Consultant, Steer Davies Gleave

Investing in Skills & Employment

Challenges - Supporting the economic upturn

- **Tackling worklessness**
- **Maximising the economic participation of young people, in response to the slowdown in growth of the working age population**
- **Driving up higher level skills to meet increasing employer demand**

Presentations by:

- David Draycott, Director, West of England Employment and Skills Board
- Tracy Hughes, Head of Delivery Strategy, Department of Work & Pensions
- Malcolm Gillespie, Regional Director SW, Learning and Skills Council

Building Communities of the Future

- Challenges - Meeting the current shortages and rising need for more homes**
- **Maintaining and improving our natural and built environment and heritage**
 - **Planning for further growth within a framework that ensures that development is mixed and sustainable**

Presentations by:

- Paul Lavelle, Enabling Advisor, Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment
- David Warburton, Area Director, Homes and Communities Agency
- Terry Wagstaff, Chief Executive, West of England Partnership

12.45 **Lunch**

1.40 **Plenary** (with tea served during the afternoon)

Delivering a Sustainable Transport System

- Cllr Charles Gerrish, Chair: Joint Transport Committee, West of England Partnership
- Sonia Mills, Chief Executive, North Bristol NHS Trust
- Peter Jackson, Director of Planning, Transportation & Strategic Environment, South Gloucestershire Council

Investing in Skills & Employment

- Cllr Barbara Janke, Leader, Bristol City Council
- Stephen Harrison, Chair: West of England Skills and Employment Board, Regional Chairman, PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Amanda Deeks, Chief Executive, South Gloucestershire Council

Building Communities of the Future

- Cllr Matthew Riddle, Chair: Planning Housing & Communities Board, West of England Partnership
- Tom King, Assistant Director: Planning and Housing, Government Office of South West
- Zoe Willcox, Service Director: Planning & Sustainable Development, Bristol City Council

4.00 **Closing Remarks**

Terry Wagstaff, Chief Executive, West of England Partnership

4.10 **Close**