

**West of England Partnership  
Joint Scrutiny  
7 November 2008**

## **Regional Funding Allocation 2 2008/09 – 2018/19: West of England Transport Priorities**

### **Purpose of report**

1. To provide the initial West of England expression of interest for transport priorities submitted to the South West Regional Assembly (SWRA) and South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA)
2. To seek Scrutiny's views.

### **Background**

3. As reported to Joint Scrutiny on 10 October 2008, the West of England authorities have been asked to provide the Region with an initial view of major transport infrastructure schemes which they would wish to take forward through the extension to the Regional funding Allocation process (termed RFA2) in the period to 2018/19. The West of England authorities have been asked to prioritise this list of schemes based upon the criteria and guidance provided within the Regional Funding Advice (July 2008).
4. The initial expression of interest also identifies schemes whose implementation falls beyond the RFA2 period, but which the authorities would wish to be progressed in the period to 2026 as part of the Regional Spatial Strategy Implementation Plan.
5. The Government are seeking an integrated approach to the Region's funding proposals which embraces transport, economic development, housing and regeneration, and skills. Recognising the need to assess and consider a large number of transport aspirations across the Region, SWRA asked authorities for an early initial view working within a short timescale. Although this process for the submission of expressions of interest for transport proposals is running in advance of other themes, work is being undertaken to ensure the sub-region is able to present a strong and coherent case for infrastructure investment across the RFA2 funding streams.

### **Initial Expression of Interest**

6. A summary of the sub-region's RFA2 transport expression of interest is provided in the Appendix, categorised into 3 priority groupings. The first includes:

- The two schemes already in the Department for Transport (DfT) programme:
    - Greater Bristol Bus Network (being implemented), and
    - Bath Package (granted Programme Entry in October 2007).
  - The two other major schemes for which bids are planned in January 2009 to be submitted in advance of the Region providing a revised RFA2 position to Government in February:
    - Weston Package, and
    - Rapid Transit Ashton Vale to Emersons Green Phase 1 (Ashton Vale to Temple Meads)
7. The remaining schemes have been divided into priorities 1 and 2 based upon the key criteria against which the Regions have been asked to prioritise schemes. These criteria include: contribution to Government Public Service Agreements, delivering the Regional Spatial and Regional Economic Strategy priorities, supporting growth and value for money. In determining these priorities particular emphasis has been placed on deliverability within the 10 year period, and the current state of readiness of the scheme.
8. It should be recognised that a raft of technical work is required to bring forward major schemes through the DfT approvals process which is both resource and time intensive. For example the Regional Funding Advice (July 2008) suggests a period of 4-6 years should be assumed from preparation of the initial bid through to implementation, and development costs can run into several million pounds. With this in mind, the investment of resources and progress made over the last two years in bringing forward those schemes prioritised by the Region in 2006 and embodied in the Joint Local Transport Plan, supports the retention of the sub-regions current RFA schemes as high priority.

### **Programme**

9. The deadline for the South West Region's response to Government is the end of February 2009. It is understood that this process will commence with first discussions on RFA2 at the Regional Transport Board meeting on 27 November 2008. A number of stakeholder events are also proposed to feed into this process including a Regional Transport Forum on Wednesday 26 November at the Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare.

### **Recommendation**

10. That Members note the RFA2 initial transport submission and provide comments.

## Appendix 1

### RFA2 – Initial Expressions of Interest

#### Major Schemes for the RFA2 Period to 2018/19

Schemes in the DfT Programme or Submitted Pre-Revised Advice
Greater Bristol Bus Network
Bath Package
Weston Package
Rapid Transit Ashton Vale to Emersons Green Phase 1 (Ashton Vale to Temple Meads)

Name of Scheme	Proposed Implementation Period	Priority
North Fringe to Hengrove Package <sup>*1</sup>	2013 - 2017	1
South Bristol Link Phases 1 and 2	2013 – 2015	
Callington Road Link/Bath Road Improvements	2012 - 2015	
Greater Bristol Metro Rail Project <sup>*2</sup>	2012 – 2014	
M5 junction 21 Bypass	2015 – 2019	
Portishead Rail Corridor	2012 – 2014	
Rapid Transit Ashton Vale to Emersons Green Phase 2 (Temple Meads to Emersons Green)	2013 – 2015	
Rapid Transit to Cribbs Causeway	2016 – 2018	2
Weston-super-Mare Package Phase 2	2015 – 2019	
Rapid Transit to Bristol International Airport	2016 – 2019	
Rapid Transit to Kingswood	2016 – 2019	
Cycling Major Scheme	2011 – 2014	
M5 junction 19	2017 – 2019	
Maintenance Schemes (A38 North South Link, A420 Kingswood to Wiltshire Boundary and Strategic Route North, Yate)	2010 - 2012	

Note 1 - Rapid Transit Hengrove to North Fringe (including M32 Park & Ride) plus North Fringe Package (Stoke Gifford Transport Link and Rapid Transit to Emersons Green)

Note 2 - Cross Bristol rail corridors – Weston, Worle, Bristol Temple Meads, Filton Abbey Wood, Bristol Parkway, Yate, Keynsham, Bath

#### Major Schemes for the Period 2018/19 - 2026

Second Avon Crossing  
 Weston-super-Mare - BIA – Bristol  
 A38 - A370 Barrow Gurney Bypass  
 Salford Bypass  
 M4 Link  
 Yate Package  
 East Fringe Package