

Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
ALL

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

Highways & Transportation Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet

14th July 2003
21st July 2003

LEICESTER WEST TRANSPORT SCHEME PROPOSAL

Report of the Corporate Director of Environment, Regeneration and Development

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To set out the position of the Leicester West Transport Scheme (LWTS) proposal.

2. Summary

- 2.1 This report informs Members of recent developments regarding the LWTS proposal and the status of submitting the proposal to the Department for Transport (DfT) for funding by 31st July 2003.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that:

- i. Cabinet reconfirms its commitment to develop a comprehensive Park and Ride system, including a site in the south of the City, and in partnership with the County Council, for Central Leicestershire.
- ii. Officers are asked to review the current proposals and further investigate options for sites in the south of the City and report back appraised options for consideration.
- iii. The City Council, in partnership with the County Council, complete the submission of the Leicester West Transport Scheme proposal to the Department for Transport for Major Local Transport Scheme funding before 31st July 2004.

4. Headline Financial and Legal Implications

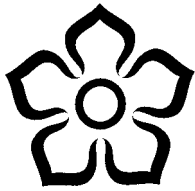
- 4.1 Costs for further assessment of a bid and potential sites, including: highway engineering; site development; environmental appraisal; consultation; and, technical and financial appraisals will be incurred.
- 4.2 It is estimated that, depending on the extent of works undertaken, these costs could be in the region of £70,000 - which would be funded from the Local Transport Plan, on the assumption this bid will be submitted.
- 4.3 Expenditure to date has been shared between the City and County Council on the Local Transport Plan split. It is anticipated that further expenditure on assessments of sites within the City may have to be met by the City Council.

5. Report Author/Officer to contact:

- 5.1 Eddie Tyrer, Team Leader - Special Projects, Highways & Transportation Division, Ext 7272.

DECISION STATUS

Key Decision	Yes
Reason	Capital expenditure of over £1 Million
Appeared in Forward Plan	Yes
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)



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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1 Report

- 1.1 This report summarises the recent developments regarding the Leicester West Transport Scheme (LWTS) proposal and sets out a framework for taking the scheme forward with a view to submission for funding to the Department for transport (DfT) in July 2004.
- 1.2 The LWTS is a joint proposal with Leicestershire County Council to develop a comprehensive bus based Park & Ride system focusing on the north, west and south of the Central Leicestershire Local Transport Plan area. The scheme is the key element to the delivery of the adopted Central Leicestershire Local Transport Plan (2001-2006).

2 Background

- 2.1 A progress report on the LWTS was submitted to Cabinet in April 2003 based on the development of three Park & Ride sites at Aylestone, Glenfield and Birstall. At its meeting on 16th June, Cabinet subsequently agreed to proceed with a bid, in partnership with the County Council, for Park & Ride only on the Glenfield and Birstall sites. This decision was subject to further work, and a report to this Cabinet meeting setting out the implications of this. A review has taken place. This review, and subsequent recommendations, has been based on:
- Consultation results
 - Technical and financial appraisal of a revised scheme
 - Discussion with officials of the DfT and the Government office of the East Midlands (GOEM)
 - The risks of taking the scheme forward at this stage against delaying a bid for 12 months
 - Review and assessment of options for site locations

2.2 Consultation

2.2.1 A comprehensive consultation exercise was undertaken on the original three site proposal. The results identified that residents adjacent to the proposed sites, in particular Aylestone, objected to the location of Park & Ride on the identified site.

2.2.2 As a result of the consultation and opposition to the proposed Aylestone site, the City Council Cabinet of 16th June 2003, approved a resolution to submit, in partnership with Leicestershire County Council, a bid based on taking forward the Glenfield and Birstall sites only. This was subject to a further report being submitted to the Highways and Transportation Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet on final details of the revised scheme prior to submission no later than 31st July 2003.

2.3 Technical and financial appraisal

2.3.1 A technical and financial appraisal has been undertaken on the revised two site scheme. This appraisal shows, that though the revised scheme would likely meet the DfT's appraisal guideline requirements, it is not as strong as the original three site scheme.

2.3.2 The operation of the scheme would likely incur revenue deficits that would have to be met from both the City and County Councils' own resources. It has not been possible, in the time available, to identify how these costs would be met. However this is an issue the DfT would want confirmation on before reaching its conclusion on the bid.

2.4 DfT and GOEM reaction

2.4.1 Officers of the City and County Councils have had discussions with both DfT and Government Office of the East Midlands (GOEM) officials to seek advice and clarification on how to take the proposal forward in light of recent statements and resolutions of both the City and County Cabinets on the shape of any submitted bid.

2.4.2 Advice from both DfT and GOEM is that it is entirely up to both Councils to decide if they would wish to submit a revised bid this year, with a view of submitting a further bid in 12 months time regarding a site to cater for the south of the study area. The DfT would not penalise the Councils if a bid were to be submitted this year and not approved, and a further revised bid subsequently submitted 12 months later.

2.4.3 DfT stated that there was an expectation there would be a number of very well developed Major scheme bids submitted this July. The Councils would have to assess whether the revised scheme would stand up well against other schemes that it would be in competition with, or whether a subsequent scheme of three sites, or more, would be stronger. There is the risk that a 12 month delay may mean that there could be less money and/or increased competition of schemes.

2.4.4 The DfT and GOEM also clearly stated that it would not be in the best interests of the Councils to submit a bid and subsequently withdraw the bid at a later date. This would badly affect the credibility and image of the Councils' to deliver major transport projects and the chances of further submissions being favourably assessed in the future.

2.5 Risks

2.5.1 In light of the technical and financial assessment, discussions with DfT/GOEM, and the resolutions and statements made by the County Council on the submission of a two site bid, it is felt that submitting a revised scheme by 31st July 2003 would be a high risk decision.

2.5.2 Further work needs to be undertaken on the revenue implications of the revised scheme and, though the scheme does have a positive Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR), it is not as strong as the original proposal. This is a factor in determining the likelihood of the scheme being approved.

2.5.3 A concern is the possibility of the bid being withdrawn, if a site in the south of the City is not clearly identified by the submission date and confirmed by October. This would be a worse case scenario for the success of the proposal. Officers recommend that the issue of taking a site forward in the south of the City should be resolved and incorporated as part of the bid, and as such a 12 month delay is required. This is in response to a resolution passed by the County Council Cabinet of 13th May 2003 which states:

“That approval be given to the submission of a bid for funding to the Department of Transport subject to clarification from Leicester City Council regarding its intentions on the Proposed Park and Ride site on Aylestone Road and to satisfactory assurances from the City Council that it continues to accept that the County Council should not be required to find from within its boundaries more than two sites to be included in the scheme; and....”

2.6 Proposed Work

2.6.1 In order to resolve the location of a site in the south of the City, it is proposed that a review and assessment of options available is undertaken. These works will include:

- Planning assessment
- Highway Engineering
- Park and Ride site development
- Environmental assessment
- Technical and financial assessment

2.6.2 It is proposed that these works are completed by October 2003 and reported back to Cabinet for consideration. This will then allow sufficient time for the subsequent detailed technical work to be completed before the bid is submitted in July 2004.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 Costs for further assessment of a bid and potential sites, including: highway engineering; site development; environmental appraisal; consultation; and, technical and financial appraisals will be incurred.
- 3.2 It is estimated that, depending on the extent of works undertaken, these costs could be in the region of £70,000 - which would be funded from the Local Transport Plan, on the assumption this bid will be submitted.
- 3.3 Expenditure to date has been shared between the City and County Council on the Local Transport Plan split. It is anticipated that further expenditure on assessments of sites within the City may have to be met by the City Council.

4 Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications arising out of this report.

5 Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph References With Supporting information
Equal Opportunities	No	
Policy	No	
Sustainable and Environmental	No	
Crime and Disorder	No	
Human Rights Act	No	
Elderly / People on Low income	No	

6 Background Papers

- 6.1 DfT Appraisal of Major Local Transport Schemes: Detailed Guidance May 2002
- 6.2 Leicester Park & Ride Site Evaluation: MVA May 2002
- 6.3 Leicester West park & Ride Consultation: MVA March 2003
- 6.4 DfT Appraisal of Major Local Transport Schemes: Detailed Guidance, April 2003

7 Details of Research & Consultation

- 7.1 Meeting of City and County Members, 27th November 2001.
- 7.2 Meeting of City and County Leaders and Chief Executives, 17th January 2002.
- 7.3 Leaders Briefing, 4th March 2002
- 7.4 Directors' Board, 9th April 2002.
- 7.5 Meeting of City and County Leaders and Chief Executives, 30th May 2002.

- 7.6 DfT meeting, 20th June 2002
- 7.7 Directors Board, 24th September 2002
- 7.8 H&T Members Working Group, 1st October 2002
- 7.9 Leaders' Briefing, 7th October 2002
- 7.10 Cabinet, 7th November 2002
- 7.11 H&T Scrutiny Committee, 11th November 2002
- 7.12 DfT meeting, 19th February 2003
- 7.13 H&T Members Working Group, 25th February 2003
- 7.14 H&T Scrutiny Committee, 17th March 2003
- 7.15 Directors' Board, 18th March 2003
- 7.16 Leader's Briefing, 31st March 2003
- 7.17 Directors' Board, 8th April 2003
- 7.18 Cabinet, 22nd April 2003
- 7.19 Cabinet, 16th June 2003

8 Report Author

- 8.1 Eddie Tyrer, Team Leader - Special Projects, Highways and Transportation Division, Ext 7272