

Cabinet - 22 January 2013

Item 5: Public Participation – Questions and responses

From Patrick Kinnersly, on behalf of the White Horse Alliance:

The White Horse Alliance understands that the Council has produced a list of more than 50 transport schemes that it wishes to prioritise and progress over the coming decade and that it hopes to secure funding from developers and from the Wiltshire and Swindon Local Enterprise Partnership and Local Transport Board.

The choice of transport schemes selected by the council will have a fundamental effect on the future of the county in the plan period to 2026. The draft Core Strategy that the council hopes will become the development plan for that period is now being examined by a Planning Inspector and the formal Examination in Public is expected to begin at some point in the next few months.

The planning of Wiltshire's roads and public transport networks must clearly be an integral part of coherent spatial planning and of the democratic process.

We ask the council to release without further delay the list of schemes that it is considering, to consult the public on its priorities and to inform the EiP Inspector what strategic transport schemes it wishes to progress.

Would you please also indicate which of those schemes are on the current list being considered by the Local Transport Board and whether the A350 Westbury Eastern Bypass is among the projects for which you are seeking major-scheme funding from that source.

Response from Councillor Dick Tonge, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport:

In January 2012, the Department for Transport (DfT) published a consultation paper entitled 'Devolving local major transport schemes' to take forward discussion about a new system for prioritising and funding local major schemes after the end of the current spending review in March 2015. Officers submitted a response to this consultation in March 2012.

The DfT's new approach was confirmed in September 2012 with the publication of 'Devolving local major transport schemes: Next steps'. Further guidance was issued by the DfT on 23 November 2012 with its publication of 'Local frameworks for funding major transport schemes: Guidance for Local Transport Bodies'. As part of these documents, the DfT set out three key initial stages:

1. Submission confirming the geography of the proposed Local Transport Body (LTB) by 28 September 2012.

A joint letter confirming the geography of the proposed Swindon and Wiltshire LTB was submitted to the DfT on 23 September 2012.

2. Submission of the proposed assurance framework for the LTB by 28 February 2013 (originally 31 December 2012).

Officers of Swindon Borough Council, Wiltshire Council and the Swindon and

Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) are currently developing the LTB assurance framework for approval by each of the three organisations by 28 February 2013. As required by the DfT's guidance, the assurance framework will include details of the scheme selection and prioritisation methodology which will be based on the DfT's Transport Business Case process and well related to national and local transport objectives.

3. Development and approval by the LTB of an indicative prioritised list of major schemes by 31 July 2013 (originally 30 April 2013).

In anticipation of the DfT's new approach, officers have been developing a list of potential major transport schemes derived from a variety of sources including the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy, previous transport studies and community aspirations. It is anticipated that this initial list of potential major transport schemes will be subject to public consultation in the Spring.

From Margaret Wilmot, in relation to agenda item 7 – Joint Strategic Assessment (JSA) for Health and Wellbeing:

Public Health Guidance 41 'Walking and Cycling: local measures to promote walking and cycling as forms of travel and recreation' was issued by the National Institute for Health & Clinical Excellence (NICE) in November 2012.

Recommendations include ensuring that the joint strategic needs assessment and the joint health and wellbeing strategy (among others) take into account opportunities to increase walking and cycling and consider how impediments to walking and cycling can be addressed.

Can we be assured that Wiltshire Council will be implementing the recommendations provided in NICE Public Health Guidance 41 and that this guidance will be taken forward in the creation of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and other relevant policies and plans being produced by the Council?

Response from Maggie Rae, Corporate Director for Public Health and Public Protection

The Director of Public Health is a member of the NICE Local Government Reference Group and will ensure that the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy includes this guidance.