

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **SOUTH EAST MIDLANDS LOCAL TRANSPORT BOARD (SEMLTB)** held in Committee Room 1, Watling House, High Street North, Dunstable on Friday, 21 June 2013

PRESENT

Members (Voting):

Bedford Borough Council

Cllr C Royden

Deputy Mayor and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport

Central Bedfordshire Council

Cllr N Young

Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Strategic Planning and Economic Development

Luton Borough Council

Cllr D Taylor

Executive Member for Environment

Milton Keynes Borough Council

Cllr A Geary

Leader of the Council

Observers (non-Voting):

Bedford Borough Council

Glenn Barcham

Assistant Director Highways and Direct Works

Central Bedfordshire Council

Paul Cook

Head of Transport Strategy

Jim Tombe

LTP Team Leader

Luton Borough Council

Keith Dove

Transport Strategy and Regulation Manager

Milton Keynes Borough Council

Brian Matthews

Head of Transport

South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP)

Hilary Chipping

Lead Officer for SEMLEP

Highways Agency

Alan Kirkdale

Asset Development Manager

Apologies:

Dr A Limb

SEMLEP

Others in Attendance:

Cllr A Brown

Sandra Hobbs

Central Bedfordshire Council

Committee Services Officer – Central Bedfordshire Council

Martin Revill

Chris Sibthorpe

Amy Sykes

JMP Consultants Ltd

JMP Consultants Ltd

JMP Consultants Ltd

LTB/13/11 **Minutes**

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

LTB/13/12 **Members' Interests**

None were declared.

LTB/13/13 **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

No announcement was made.

LTB/13/14 **Public Participation**

No requests were received.

LTB/13/15 **Local Framework**

The Board considered a report that provided an update on the Department for Transport's (DfT) amended approach to signing off the Local Framework.

The DfT was undertaking a significant amount of work in providing guidance that would inform the process for Local Transport Boards (LTBs) assessing and approving the Business Case for major transport projects. The Board noted that DfT's response to Part 1 (Governance) of the Local Framework had not been received.

The DfT was proposing that approval of Part 3 of the Local Framework would not be issued until each LTB had been given a chance to consider the guidance. It was anticipated that guidance from the DfT would be available in the autumn.

RESOLVED

that the Department for Transport's amended approach to signing off the Local Framework be noted.

LTB/13/16 **Prioritisation of Transport Schemes**

The Board considered a report that provided an update on the prioritisation process as set out in Part 2 of the Local Framework. The key elements of the prioritisation process were:

- each Local Authority should prepare a list of eligible transport schemes; and
- the prioritised shortlist would be generated by a spreadsheet methodology that took into account the Local Transport Board objectives, together with the scheme cost, deliverability to programme, Value for Money and the environmental/social distribution impacts.

The Board noted the appointment of JMP Consultants Limited to undertake this work, together with their initial review of the spreadsheet and the long list of schemes to be prioritised.

The Board also noted that JMP were presenting an initial assessment of the prioritisation of the long list of schemes, which had been amended following discussions with officers.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the appointment of JMP to undertake the prioritisation process be noted;**
- 2. that the methodology of the prioritisation process as set out in Appendix A to the report be approved; and**
- 3. that the list of strategic transport schemes to be funded in part through the South East Midlands Local Transport Board funding application be approved.**

LTB/13/17 **Presentation by JMP**

The Board received a presentation from JMP Consultants Ltd on the Local Major Scheme Devolution in the South East Midlands Local Transport Board (LTB) area. JMP's role would be to review the prioritisation process and framework, and provide supporting evidence for an audit trail of the prioritisation process. It was noted the selection criteria must consider value for money, deliverability, environmental and social/distributional impact.

JMP had been working closely with officers and had reviewed the appropriateness, quality and consistency of evidence submitted by scheme sponsors for the prioritisation process. The Consultants reported on the early sift of the long list of schemes, the initial assessment and "scoring" of a short list of schemes and provided an illustrative development of potential programme options. A copy of JMP's presentation is attached at Appendix A.

The Board discussed the short list of schemes and whether they were deliverable and were value for money. Members discussed the need to adopt a more strategic approach to agreeing the LTB programme of schemes, and particularly noted that the Woodside Link, Bedford Western Bypass and the A421 dualling and associated roundabouts satisfied this approach. It was agreed that further evidence supporting the A421 scheme was needed.

The Board considered that some more local schemes should also be included in the LTB programme. They therefore considered that the inclusion of the A421 dualling within Option C presented by JMP was the most appropriate LTB programme.

The Board requested that before the next meeting on 25 July the short list of schemes be mapped out and circulated to the Board.

RESOLVED

that JMP Consultants Ltd and officers assess the following schemes before the next meeting:

- **Woodside Link**
- **Bedford Western Bypass**
- **London Luton Airport surface access**
- **A421 dualling and associated roundabouts**

with the addition of one or more schemes being included from the following:

- **Milton Keynes Park and Ride**
- **Northern entrance to Luton Airport Parkway**
- **Central Milton Keynes Public Transport Interchange**
- **Bletchley Public Transport Interchange**

LTB/13/18 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 25 July 2013 at 10.00 a.m. in Committee Room 1, Watling House, Dunstable.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 10.05 a.m. and concluded at 11.03 a.m.)