

BERKSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT BODY (BLTB)

REPORT TO: BLTB **DATE:** 13 March 2014

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PART I

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN AND GROWTH DEAL

Purpose of Report

1. To provide a progress report on the development of the Strategic Economic Plan for Thames Valley Berkshire, with particular reference to the schemes included in packages D i, D ii, and D iii Transport Infrastructure.

Recommendation

2. You are requested to note the progress made in preparing the Strategic Economic Plan

Other Implications

Financial

3. The DfT has confirmed the allocation of Local Majors Capital Funding for Berkshire LTB as £14.5m over four years, commencing April 2015. This confirmation needs to be understood in the context of other Government announcements in relation to the preparation of Strategic Economic Plans, Growth Deals and the allocation of the Local Growth Fund.
4. The DfT have confirmed that the financial allocation of £14.5m to TVB LEP as part of the emerging Growth Deal is guaranteed, and that this element of the settlement will be exempt from the competition for Local Growth Fund allocations. The funding is equally split between the four financial years:

Table 1 – Available Finance

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Total
£m	3.625	3.625	3.625	3.625	14.5

5. The Strategic Economic Plan contains an “ask” for further funding to supplement this allocation as follows:

Table 2 – Growth Deal “Ask”

£m	2015-16	2016-21 – not programmed to individual years	Total
Package D - i Enhancing the Strategic Transport Network	-	-	-
Package D – ii Unlocking Housing Development	7.700	23.200	30.900

Package D - iii Enhancing Urban Connectivity	25.200	57.050	82.250
Totals	32.900	80.250	113.150

Risk Management

6. This item is a report for information. The responsibility for understanding and managing the risks associated with the Strategic Economic Plan and the Growth Deal process rest with Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

7. This item is a report for information. There no significant Human Rights Act or other legal implications for the LTB to consider.

Supporting Information

8. The [Consultation Draft of the Strategic Economic Plan for Berkshire](#) was published in December 2013, and the deadline for the submission of the final Plan is 31 March. The draft says,

“Our overarching priority is to secure better access to talented people and bright ideas, and to use both more effectively”

The Plan goes on to identify four high level programmes within the Implementation Plan:

- A: Promotion and international positioning of TVB
- B: Enterprise, innovation and business growth
- C: Skills, education and employment
- D: Infrastructure – transport, communications and place-shaping

9. The draft plan makes a strong case for further investment in transport infrastructure to support economic growth. This paper will outline the detail that sits with Programme D.
10. The text of the SEP will be amended to include the form of words suggested by a group of councils to provide a stronger commitment to LSTF objectives. We are also talking to Slough and W&M about a further tweak to the scheme list to include sustainable travel improvements on the A4 between Maidenhead and Slough to be coordinated with colleagues from Bucks who are proposing a similar scheme along the Bucks section of the A4 and focussing on access to Taplow and Burnham stations.

PACKAGE D–i: ENHANCING THE STRATEGIC TRANSPORT NETWORK

11. “Outcomes: delivery of the station improvements to complement major rail investment; coherent investment plans for Reading–Waterloo, Reading–Gatwick and Southern Rail Access to Heathrow; improved east-west road capacity on M4 corridor; improved road connections between M3/M4/M40.”
12. The funding of the various projects identified here lies with the National Transport Bodies, primarily Network Rail and the Highways Agency. The Implementation Plan will focus on ways to promote, lobby and campaign for these projects.

13. In this section the Western Rail Access to Heathrow project figures prominently. This position has been heavily reinforced by the responses to the consultation draft from the DfT, First Great Western and other respondents who have all urged that the need for the speediest possible implementation of the plans be emphasised.

14. The Highways Agency have very recently announced that they intend to proceed with the planning of the Smart Motorway scheme for the M4 between J12 (Theale) and J3 (Hayes). This will involve all-lane-running, the removal of the hard shoulder, the creation of a continuous fourth lane between J8/9 and J3 and the installation of gantries. This is also excellent news for the TVB economy.

15. We also progressing the collection of evidence in support of further rail investment in Reading-Waterloo and Southern Rail Access to Heathrow.

PACKAGE D–ii: UNLOCKING HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

16. “Outcomes: delivery of a minimum of 15,200 dwellings between 2015/16 and 2020/21.”

17. The Implementation Plan has identified 8 road schemes that will help unlock Strategic Development Locations. They are:

Table 3 – Package D-ii Unlocking Housing Development

Scheme Name	Output	SEP Score and Ranking	LTB Programme Entry Scheme?	2015-16			2016 -2021		
				Gross	Local funds	LGF ask	Gross	Local funds	LGF ask
Kings Road Link Road, Newbury	Unlocks 1500 dwellings	Not submitted – already prioritised by LTB	Yes, ranked 1st	£2.9 m	£0.6 m	£2.3 m			
Warfield Link Road	Unlocks 2200 dwellings	6th= 27.5 pts	No, not ranked	£5.2 m	£1.7 m	£3.5 m			
London Road Industrial Estate Newbury	Unlocks 450 dwellings and employment	6th= 27.5 pts	No, not ranked	£2.4 m	£0.5 m	£1.9 m			
South Wokingham Distributor Road	Unlocks 7500 dwellings	11th= 26 pts	Yes, ranked 5th=				£76.2 m	£54.3 m	£21.9 m
Finchampstead Road Bridges			No, ranked 12th=						
North Wokingham Distributor Road			Yes, ranked 5th=						
Arborfield By-pass			No, ranked 14th						
Newbury Sandleford Park	Unlocks (up to) 2000 dwellings	18th= 24 pts	No, not ranked				£1.9 m	£0.6 m	£1.3 m
Total						£7.7 m			£23.2 m

PACKAGE D–iii: ENHANCING URBAN CONNECTIVITY

18. “Outcomes: the delivery of the schemes prioritised by the Local Transport Body, including corridor improvements and mass rapid transit schemes”

19. The Implementation Plan has identified 11 road schemes that will enhance urban connectivity. They are:

Table 4 – Package D-iii Enhancing Urban Connectivity

Scheme Name	Output		LTB Programme Entry Scheme?	2015-16			2016 -2021		
				Gross	Local funds	LGF ask	Gross	Local funds	LGF ask
Reading Green Park Railway Station	Step change in public transport	Not submitted – already prioritised by LTB	Yes, ranked 2nd	£8m	£1.6 m	£6.4 m			
Coral Reef Roundabout A329M-A329-A322	Road capacity improvements	13th= 25.5 pts	Yes, ranked 4th	£3m	£0.9 m	£2.1 m			
Slough-Rapid Transit Phase 1 (NB two LTB schemes combined: Slough MRT West and Slough MRT Central)	Step change in public transport	1st= 29 pts	Yes, West ranked 5th=	£9.1 m	£3.6 m	£5.5 m			
			Yes, Central ranked 5th=						
Bracknell Martins Heron – A322/A329	Road capacity improvements	9th= 27 pts	No, not ranked	£4m	£0.3 m	£3.7 m			
Slough A332 improvements (NB two LTB schemes combined: A322 North and A322 South)	Road capacity improvements	16th= 25 pts	No, North ranked 15th	£5m	£2.3 m	£2.7 m			
			No, South ranked 18th						
East West Cycle Spine	Step change in public transport	17th 24.5 pts	No, not ranked	£3.5 m	£1.6 m	£1.9 m			
Eastern Park and Ride Reading	Step change in public transport	19th 23.5 pts	No, ranked 9th=	£3.6 m	£0.7 m	£2.9 m			
Eastern Thames Valley MRT	Step change in public transport	21st= 22 pts	Yes, ranked 3rd				£22.9 m	£4.6 m	£18.3 m
Southern Thames Valley MRT	Step change in public transport	21st= 22 pts	No, not ranked				£31.5 m	£3.1 m	£28.4 m

Scheme Name	Output		LTB Programme Entry Scheme?	2015-16			2016 -2021		
				Gross	Local funds	LGF ask	Gross	Local funds	LGF ask
Slough A355 Route	Road capacity improvements	1st= 29 pts	No, ranked 9th=				£4.7 m	£1.1 m	£3.6 m
Maidenhead Station Access (NB LTB scheme was Car park only – this is a larger scheme with a range of access improvements)	Crossrail linked	5th 28 pts	No, ranked 12th=				£8m	£1.25 m	£6.75 m
Total						£25.2 m			£57.05m

PACKAGE D–iv: ENCOURAGING VIBRANT TOWN CENTRES

20. “Outcomes: delivery of the town centre development aspirations set out in the respective local plan documents.”
21. The Implementation Plan will set out the major levels of private and local authority investment currently and recently made in revitalising our Town Centres, including schemes in Newbury, Reading, Wokingham, Bracknell, Maidenhead and Slough. There are currently no transport schemes identified in this package

PACKAGE D–v: POSITIONING TVB FOR A DIGITAL FUTURE

22. “Outcomes: Over 90% coverage for high speed broadband; TVB (and the wider Thames Valley) as a pioneer in 5G roll out; major increase in fibre to cabinet connectivity and capacity.”
23. There are currently no transport schemes identified in this package.

PACKAGE D–vi: UTILITIES PROVISION

24. “Outcomes: resolution of local utilities constraints to enable housing development and quality and capacity of supply to businesses.”
25. There are currently no transport schemes identified in this package. We are considering including a response to Flood Risks here.

Links to Local Transport Body Scheme Priorities

26. The following table shows how the LTB schemes have been incorporated into Programme D.

Table 5 – Prioritisation of LTB Scheme

Scheme Promoter	Short Title	Short Description	Total	Rank	Included in Programme D?
West Berkshire - 1	Kings Road Link Road: Supporting successful industry – enabling Newbury's growth	New direct link between the Hambridge Road industrial area and the A339 in Newbury to support housing delivery and significantly improve access to a key employment area	28	1	Yes
Reading - 1	Reading GreenPark Railway Station	Reading GreenPark Railway Station on the Reading to Basingstoke railway line	27	2	Yes
Reading - 3 (with Wokingham)	Eastern Thames Valley Mass Rapid Transit	Thames Valley Mass Rapid Transit (TVMRT) system between Reading and Thames Valley Park (and TVP Park & Ride)	23.5	3	Yes
Bracknell Forest - 1	Coral Reef Roundabout	Junction improvements at Coral Reef roundabout forming part of the overall improvements to the A322/A329 corridor and improving links between M3 and M4	23	4	Yes
Slough -1	Slough to Heathrow Mass Rapid Transit: Western Section (Slough Trading Estate to Three Tuns)	Provision of segregated bus lanes along the A4 corridor to serve Slough Trading Estate and support the development of a mass rapid transit connection between Slough and Heathrow	22.5	5	Yes
Slough - 2	Slough to Heathrow Mass Rapid Transit: Central Section (Three Tuns to Brands Hill)	Scheme to provide a series of bus priority measures along the A4 corridor in central Slough to support the development of a mass rapid transit connection between Slough and Heathrow	22.5	5	Yes
Wokingham - 4	South Wokingham Distributor Road	Provision of a new road south of Wokingham Town Centre to function as a distributor road for the South Wokingham Strategic Development Area and provide an alternative route around the Town Centre to the south	22.5	5	Yes
Wokingham - 2	North Wokingham Full Northern Distributor Road	Provision of a new road north of Wokingham Town Centre to function as a distributor road for the North Wokingham Strategic Development Area and provide an alternative route around the Town Centre	22.5	5	Yes
Slough - 6	A355 Route Enhancement	Scheme to improve traffic flow on the strategic north-south A355 route between the M4, Slough Trading Estate and the M40 and enhancing access to Slough town centre.	22	9	Yes

Scheme Promoter	Short Title	Short Description	Total	Rank	Included in Programme D?
West Berkshire - 2	A339, Newbury: Improvements unlocking commercial redevelopment	The scheme facilitates access to a regeneration site via a new junction on the A339. It provides additional capacity on the A339 through widening a 300m stretch of the northbound carriageway	22	9	Yes - included in revised and larger London Road Industrial Estate
Reading - 5 (with Wokingham)	Park & Ride West of Thames Valley Park (Broken Brow)	Park & Ride on the Broken Brow site, accessed from the A3290/Thames Valley Park Drive roundabout	22	9	Yes
Windsor and Maidenhead - 1	Stafferton Way Multi-Storey Car Park	A new multi-storey car park with up to 1,000 spaces to provide additional car parking to serve Maidenhead Station and town centre	21.5	12	Yes – included in revised and larger Maidenhead Station scheme
Wokingham - 6	Finchampstead Road Bridges	Replacement of two rail bridges with slender bridge decks and altered highway alignments to improve the passage of high sided vehicles and improve the facilities for pedestrians and cyclists	21.5	12	Yes
Wokingham - 1	Arborfield Bypass	A new road and associated works to bypass Arborfield Village and provide capacity improvements along the A327	21	14	Yes
Reading - 7 (with Wokingham)	A4 Eastern Gateway Pinch Point Scheme	Package of measures to reduce congestion and improve journey time reliability along the A4 into and out of central Reading, the primary gateway to Reading from the east.	20.5	15	No – Already funded by DfT Pinch Point Phase 3
Wokingham - 5	Winnersh Relief Road phase 2	New highway construction completing the Full Winnersh Relief Road linking with Winnersh Relief Road Phase 1 (Kings Street Lane) to a new junction on the A329 near Woodward Close	20.5	15	No – not submitted by Wokingham
Slough - 4	A332 Route Enhancement: Northern section	Scheme to enhance the northern section of the A332 Windsor Road to increase traffic capacity and provide better facilities for buses, pedestrians and cyclists.	20.5	15	Yes
Slough - 5	A332 Route Enhancement: Southern section	Scheme to enhance the southern section of the A332 Windsor Road to increase traffic capacity and provide better facilities for buses, pedestrians and cyclists.	19.5	18	Yes
Slough - 3	Slough to Heathrow Mass Rapid Transit: Eastern Section	Provision of a segregated bus lane along the A4 Colnbrook Bypass to support the development of a mass rapid transit connection between Slough and Heathrow.	19	19	No – but included in list of longer term aspirations

Scheme Promoter	Short Title	Short Description	Total	Rank	Included in Programme D?
Slough - 7	Chalvey Rail Station	New halt on Slough- Windsor Town branch rail line to serve Chalvey. Single face platform with access ramp, lighting, shelter, CCTV, information point, automated ticket machines and drop off point.	18	20	No – not submitted by Slough
Wokingham - 3	Lower Earley Way Highway Improvements	Capacity Improvements along the B3270 corridor (Lower Earley Way) which runs parallel to the M4 between junction 10 and junction 11	16.5	21	No – not submitted by Wokingham
Windsor and Maidenhead - 2	Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge to Dorney Lake	Pedestrian and cycle bridge between West Windsor and Dorney Lake	15.5	22	No – not sufficient economic impact
Reading - 6	Northern Reading Park & Ride	Park & Ride site to the north of Reading, accessed from A4155 Henley Road	14	23	No – not submitted by Reading
Reading - 8	Kennetside Retaining Wall Maintenance Scheme	Scheme to deliver a long term solution to the continued deterioration of the Kennetside Retaining Wall which forms a key link in the National Cycle Network and key pedestrian route	13	24	No – not submitted by Reading

27. In addition, the new Thames Crossing east of Reading, the South East Thames Valley MRT and the Eastern Section of Slough MRT connecting from M4 J5 to LHR are included as longer term aspiration schemes.

Conclusion

28. The SEP implementation plan includes a significant programme of Transport Schemes that reflects the priorities set earlier by the LTB.

Background Papers

Each of the schemes referred to above has a detailed pro-forma summarising the details of the scheme. Both the SEP and LTB prioritisation processes and scoring schemes are also available background papers.