

BERKSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT BODY (BLTB)

REPORT TO: BLTB

DATE: 16 March 2017

CONTACT OFFICER: Roger Parkin, Interim Chief Executive Slough Borough Council, lead Chief Executive to the BLTB

PART I

Item 7: 2.04 Wokingham Distributor Roads Programme

Purpose of Report

1. This report reviews the progress made in delivering the Wokingham Distributor Roads Programme, and seeks your support for the allocation of £24m identified in Growth Deal 1 to support the 2.04.4 Arborfield Cross Relief Road only.

Recommendation

2. You are recommended to support the request of Wokingham BC to concentrate all the available £24m for the Distributor Roads programme in scheme 2.04.4 Arborfield Cross Relief Road.

Other Implications

Financial

3. There are no direct financial implications of this report; instead it asks members to support Wokingham's request to the DfT that the £24m identified in Growth Deal 1 to support the Wokingham Distributor Roads Programme be concentrated in support for one scheme only (2.04.4 Wokingham Arborfield Cross Relief Road) and that consequently no financial support be available for the other roads in the programme.

Risk Management

4. The DfT named 2.04 Wokingham Distributor Roads Programme as a "retained" scheme because it exceeded their threshold of £20m. Therefore the scheme promoter, Wokingham BC, has to pass the DfT assurance processes rather than the BLTB processes.
5. The release of the £24m identified in Growth Deal 1 is a matter for the DfT.

Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

6. Slough Borough Council will provide legal support for the BLTB, should any questions arise.

Supporting Information

7. The Wokingham Distributor Roads Programme originally had four roads in it, each associated with a Strategic Development Location identified in the Borough's Local Plan:

Table 1: 2.04 Wokingham Distributor Roads Programme

2.04	Road	SDL	Comments
2.04.1	Shinfield Eastern Relief Road	South of the M4	Funded outside the Local Growth Deal, including new M4 overbridge and access to University of Reading Science Park. Nearing completion.
2.04.2	North Wokingham Distributor Road	North Wokingham	Part constructed in association with housing sites already built. Complex arrangements site by site with developers.
2.04.3	South Wokingham Distributor Road	South Wokingham	Part constructed in association with housing sites already built. Complex arrangements site by site with developers. Includes new overbridge for Wokingham to Bracknell railway line
2.04.4	Arborfield Cross Relief Road	Arborfield	Wholly within Wokingham BC control a new road to the west of the Arborfield Garrison site

8. The original proposal was to spread the Growth Deal contribution across three roads: 2.04.1 Shinfield Eastern Relief Road was funded outside the Growth Deal. This meant that the assurance framework was engaged for each of the three other roads.
9. The current proposal is to simplify the task of producing business cases (and reduce the costs involved) by concentrating the Growth Deal funding on 2.04.4 Arborfield Cross Relief Road.

Table 2: Proposed Funding Change

Before	2.04.2	2.04.3	2.04.4	Total
£m	North Wokingham Distributor Road	South Wokingham Distributor Road	Arborfield Cross Relief Road	
Developer and Local Funding	40.1	32.3	14.5	86.9
Growth Deal	6.1	4.3	13.6	24.0
Total	46.2	36.6	28.1	110.9
After	2.04.2	2.04.3	2.04.4	Total
£m	North Wokingham Distributor Road	South Wokingham Distributor Road	Arborfield Cross Relief Road	
Developer and Local Funding	46.2	36.6	4.1	86.9
Growth Deal	0.0	0.0	24.0	24.0
Total	46.2	36.6	28.0	110.9

10. In order to activate this proposal, Wokingham BC have drafted a letter to send to DfT (see Appendix 1) which requires the support of the LTB.

Conclusion

11. The preliminary discussions held between Wokingham BC and the DfT officials have produced an elegant solution for ensuring that there is an appropriate level of external scrutiny for the £24m grant towards the Wokingham Distributor Roads Programme.

Background Papers

12. Correspondence between DfT Local Infrastructure Team, the LEP, Wokingham's Finance and Transport teams.