

BERKSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT BODY (BLTB)

REPORT TO: BLTB

DATE: 15 November 2018

CONTACT OFFICER: Joe Carter, Director of Regeneration, Lead Officer to the BLTB

PART I

Item 8: 2.04.4 Wokingham: Arborfield Cross Relief Road – Preliminary Costs

Purpose of Report

1. To approve the transfer of preliminary costs already approved by DfT; this report gives the LEP's accountable body, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, the authority to transfer the money to Wokingham.

Recommendation

2. You are recommended to approve the transfer of £874,176 to Wokingham Borough Council in respect of preliminary costs associated with scheme 2.04.4 Wokingham: Arborfield Cross Relief Road

Other Implications

Financial

3. The Local Growth Deal approved in 2014 included £24m for the Wokingham Distributor Roads Programme. The DfT included this in its list of "retained schemes" as the contribution exceeded £20m. This means that the scheme promoter, Wokingham Borough has to obtain Full Business Case approval from DfT and not from the Berkshire Local Transport Body.
4. On 13 August 2018, DfT made a s.31 Grant Determination (Local Authority Major Project Grant 31/3356) releasing £874,176 of preliminary costs to the LEP accountable body, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

Risk Management

5. There are no significant risks for BLTB.

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. When the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) was formulated in 2013, it included support for project 2.04 Wokingham Distributor Roads Programme. The Local

Growth Deal announced in 2014 named this as a “DfT-retained scheme” with a contribution of £24m.

8. There were four distributor roads named in the SEP: Shinfield Eastern Relief Road; North Wokingham Distributor Road; South Wokingham Distributor Road; Arborfield Cross Relief Road. The Wokingham Borough Plan had identified four Strategic Development Locations (SDLs) and these four roads support the development of housing in the four parts of the Borough.
9. Since then Shinfield Eastern Relief Road has been built and funded outside the Local Growth Deal. Parts of the North and South Wokingham Distributor Roads have been built in association with housing developments. Now it has been agreed with the DfT that all of the £24m grant will be applied to the Arborfield Cross Relief Road.
10. Colleagues from Wokingham have now made sufficient progress with the development of the Full Business Case that DfT have released £874,176 as contribution to the preliminary costs.
11. As the Full Business Case process progresses, we expect DfT to release further portions of the £24m.

Conclusion

12. The report gives the appropriate authority to transfer the preliminary costs contribution to Wokingham.

Background Papers

13. s31 grant letter dated 13 August 2018 (Grant Determination (Local Authority Major Project Grant 31/3356))