
Revenue Support for Business Case Preparation

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 This report sets out West Berkshire Council's proposed plans for using the funding that BLTB have agreed to make available for business case preparation. A sum of £100,000 has been set aside as a contribution towards the development of outline business cases for transport infrastructure projects which support or enable the development of housing, employment, leisure or retail projects.
- 1.2 This report details how the Council intends to spend the money and the associated timescales for this work.

2. Progress with the West Berkshire Local Plan

- 2.1 West Berkshire Council is preparing for an initial consultation in November / December this Autumn in relation to the review of the Local Plan. Sites for development have been put forward by site promoters and these are being assessed by the Council. A further site-specific consultation will take place in 2019 once the relevant assessment work has taken place to allow initial sifting and identification of options.
- 2.2 The Council's Local Plan Review timetable seeks to submit the plan in November 2019 with an Examination during 2020 and adoption in November 2020.
- 2.3 Whilst Officers have some knowledge of the possible infrastructure schemes that might be required to support the delivery of the Local Plan up to 2036, it is too early to specifically identify schemes with any confidence. There is a further stage of selecting preferred options and testing the transport impacts of these options before schemes and outline business cases can be developed.
- 2.4 The information provided below therefore reflects the stage that West Berkshire is at in its Local Plan review and development.

3. Proposal for the use of revenue support funds

- 3.1 The Council is embarking on some master planning work within the Newbury / Thatcham urban area in order to support the development of the Local Plan review. This master planning work will need to be supported by some detailed transport modelling and assessment of impacts. To this end the Council is planning the development of a VISSIM model for Thatcham. Newbury has an up to date VISSIM model that can be used to assess detailed impacts of development options, but the same modelling capabilities are not currently in place for Thatcham.
- 3.2 Some funding has already been allocated to this project but there is a shortfall. The Council is proposing that up to £40,000 of the funding available from BLTB is allocated to the development of modelling tools for Thatcham (VISSIM) and the use of the model to assess options for new development in Thatcham. This modelling of development options will then help to identify areas where infrastructure schemes may be required to support or unlock development. This would form Phase 1 of the

Council's programme of making use of the BLTB approved funding. The Council will report back to the BLTB on Phase 1 at the BLTB meeting in July 2019.

3.3 Phase 2 of the programme would be to further investigate and develop outline business cases for infrastructure schemes to help support the proposals coming out of the Local Plan. The most appropriate schemes to take forward will be identified and a new programme will be provided to the LEP / BLTB for approval. These schemes are likely to be taken from the following list:

- Schemes identified through the master planning and transport modelling work that is undertaken in the Newbury / Thatcham urban areas
- Schemes along the A4 in the Eastern Urban Area to increase capacity, improve journey time reliability and support the delivery of new development.
- Improvements to linkages within the Eastern Urban Area such as between Theale and Calcot

3.4 The remaining £60,000 will be used to progress schemes to the outline business case stage.

4. Proposed timetable

4.1 The table below sets out the proposed timetable for West Berkshire's programme outlined above:

Description of Task	Start	Complete	Report to BLTB
Outline proposal for use of full £100,000 funding	October 2018	October 2018	November 2018
Phase 1a: Develop Thatcham VISSIM model	November 2018	April 2019	July 2019
Phase 1b: Use model to assess options and highlight necessary infrastructure improvements	May 2019	June 2019	
Phase 2: Proposal of which schemes to take forward to OBC stage	July 2019	October 2019	November 2019
Phase 2: Development of OBCs for identified schemes	December 2019	May 2020	July 2020

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