

BERKSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT BODY (BLTB)

REPORT TO: BLTB

DATE: 14 March 2019

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PART I

Item 10: Transport for the South East – call for Major Roads Network schemes

Purpose of Report

1. To advise that government has announced that a fund of £3.5 billion is available to improve the Major Roads Network (MRN) across the UK. The MRN is made up of vital A roads administered by local authorities and sits below the national network of motorway and trunk roads (known as the Strategic Roads Network or SRN) managed by Highways England.
2. Further, the government has indicated sub-national transport bodies (including TfSE) will play a major role in identifying priorities for their areas. To this end, TfSE has issued a call for schemes with a deadline of May 2019.

Recommendation

3. You are asked to note the TfSE call for MRN schemes and that a further report, detailing any schemes submitted to TfSE will be produced for the July BLTB meeting.

Other Implications

Financial

4. There are no direct financial implications of this report for Berkshire Local Transport Body. In the event that any Thames Valley Berkshire scheme is selected by government to receive MRN funding, it is anticipated that this funding will support the capital costs of the MRN.
5. The call for bids requires the promoter to make a 15% local contribution to the capital cost of each scheme.

Risk Management

6. BLTB are not prioritising the submitted schemes – this will be done by TfSE – therefore there are no risks for Berkshire Local Transport Body associated with the government's Major Roads Network call for schemes.
7. Any local authority that decides to submit a scheme in response to this call for bids can also seek funding for the same scheme from any other source; there is

no risk that by choosing to bid it will reduce the chances of securing funding from other sources.

Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

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

Supporting Information

9. Department for Transport guidance gives confirmation of the types of schemes that are eligible:

- DfT contribution to be between £20m and £50m (although the lower threshold will not be applied rigidly)
- Schemes over £50m should be dealt with as potential Large Local Major schemes
- A local contribution of at least 15% is required
- There is potential for development funding

10. Full details here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/major-road-network-and-large-local-majors-programmes-investment-planning>

11. TfSE has already prioritised the first tranche of MRN schemes, but there is commitment to ensure that this will become an ongoing process, with a possible annual call for schemes.

12. Here is a summary of the MRN within the TfSE and surrounding area:



Conclusion

13. The work to prepare a response to this call for schemes is a good example of the benefits of our membership of TfSE.

Background Papers

BSTOF working papers