

Report of the Director of City Strategy

Major Transport Initiatives in York – an update

Summary

1. This report provides Members of the Scrutiny Committee with an overview and update in relation to the major transport initiatives in the city currently being progressed.

Major Transport Initiatives:

2. Separate reports on the major transport initiatives are presented to the Executive Member for City Strategy on a regular basis. The overall capital programme is monitored through the year with the latest report submitted to the 7 December Decision Session.

3. LTP3 - Progress

Preparation of the new Local Transport Plan for the city setting out the transport policies for the city and the measures to be progressed in the short, medium and long term.

- Draft Framework for Consultation approved at the Executive Member Decision Session for City Strategy on 5 October 2010.
- Consultation in October and November included exhibitions (City Centre, Acomb, Monks Cross, Clifton Moor), on-line questionnaire and Your City questionnaire.
- Results currently being analysed.
- Report back on consultation (including feedback on an outline Sustainability Appraisal) to 4 January Decision Session
- Final draft of LTP Document to 1 February Decision Session
- Final LTP Document to Executive in March 2011
- Adoption of Final Plan by Full Council in April 2011

4. Cycling City

The Cycling City project is a three year programme (2009-2011) to encourage more people to cycle in the city. The programme is funded by a £3.68m grant from Cycling England (CE), which has been match-funded by the city (City of York Council and other partners). Grant funding is provided to deliver both revenue and capital initiatives. Further details are included in the 6 monthly update reports to the Executive (See 21 September for latest update)

- Promotional events have been held throughout year including two of the main events, York Cycling City Races in July, the Festival of Cycling in September.

- Smaller events and cycle rides are continuing through the year e.g. family cycling try out show in November and Christmas cycle ride in December. Plus many other revenue funded initiatives that have been reported on nationally. Further details of events are available on the Cycling City website at <http://www.cyclingcityyork.org.uk>
- The final elements of the infrastructure improvements included in the programme are planned to be completed by the end of March.
- The final three sections of the Orbital Cycle Route (James Street to Millennium Bridge, Hob Moor to Water End, Clifton Green to Crichton Avenue) will be completed by the end of 2010/11. This will complete a high quality circuit of the city improving access to schools and employment sites.
- The Cycling Hub providing secure cycle parking in the city centre in a converted former electricity sub-station adjacent to Lendal Bridge to be operated by Bike Rescue is due to open in January.
- Access for cyclists, disabled and pedestrians to the station will be transformed by the introduction of new ramps from Lowther Terrace into the long stay car park and Post Office Lane into the short stay car park. These new access points will enable cyclists to avoid the busy section of the inner ring road in front of the station. The scheme is being progressed by East Coast with a £200k contribution from the council.
- An update on other schemes is included in the Capital Programme section
- It is anticipated that a bid to the Local Sustainable Transport Fund will be submitted to enable elements of the Cycling City programme to continue in 2011/12 and beyond with a wider focus on all smarter choices. Guidance for the bid eligibility criteria for the fund has not yet been published.

5. Integrated Transport Capital Programme

The integrated transport programme is funded from the Local Transport Settlement, Individual transport grants and developer contributions. The funding is used to deliver the infrastructure objectives of the Local Transport Plan. Details of the programme are presented to the Executive Member throughout the year. (Monitor 2 Capital Programme Report submitted to 7 December meeting)

- The starting budget for the 2010/11 integrated transport capital programme was £6.9m. Following in-year budget cuts announced on 10 June the budget was reduced to £5.7m. The current budget is £5.8m following the addition of grants and virements. Pending the confirmation of the LTP settlement in December it is anticipated that future years budgets will be substantially lower at approx. £2.0m per year.
- An update on the principal schemes in the 2010/11 is provided in the following paragraphs:

6. A1237 / A19 Rawcliffe roundabout improvements

Improvements to increase the capacity of this key junction and reduce journey times on this section of York's outer ring road.

- £1.4m scheme to improve capacity at the junction is due to commence at the beginning of December and be completed by March 2011.

- The scheme includes the widening of the A19 North and A1237 approaches to three lanes and A1237 exits to two lanes over approx.150m. The lighting columns will be upgraded as part of the scheme to improve safety.
- Due to traffic queuing across the A19 roundabout, particularly in the anti-clockwise direction during pm peaks, the full benefit of the improvement is not expected to be realised until the A59 roundabout is also upgraded.

7. A19 Fulford Road corridor improvements

Multi-modal transport improvements along this key corridor.

- The strategy for the corridor was approved in March 2008 following public consultation.
- Major improvements have been implemented between Heslington Lane and Cemetery Road including traffic monitoring cameras at four junctions; new traffic signal equipment at three junctions; improved pedestrian crossing facilities; on-road and off-road facilities for cyclists; and city-bound bus lanes on the approaches to the Broadway and Hospital Fields Road junctions.
- Minor improvements have also been introduced at other locations including a new pedestrian refuge crossing on Fulford Main Street; a section of bus lane on Selby Road; and gateway treatments on the B1222 at Naburn.
- Following a review of the scheme the Executive Member approved the removal of a section of the bus lane between Fulford Cross and Hospital Fields Road. The right turn lanes will be re-instated; an additional pedestrian refuge island installed and continuous on-road cycle facilities provided.
- Schemes for the northern section of the corridor from Cemetery Road to Fishergate School and for the Fishergate gyratory are currently being developed for consultation. Implementation will be carried out in stages commencing in February 2011.
- The major improvements at the southern end of Fulford Road, including improvements to the A64 interchange, are closely linked to the Germany Beck development.

8. Blossom Street

A multimodal scheme to improve the layout of Blossom Street for cyclists, bus services and pedestrians

- The scheme upgrades the layout and equipment of the signalised junctions and crossing point on Blossom Street between Holgate Road and Queen Street. A continuous in-bound cycle route and new pedestrian crossing will also be provided on Blossom Street.
- The scheme has been split into two phases due to in-year funding reductions. Phase 1 to improve the Blossom Street/Queen Street junction was completed in November.
- Subject to the availability of funding the 2nd phase from Holgate Road up to the end of phase 1 will be delivered in 2011/12
- Through the Cycling City York programme an advance green light for cyclists has been delivered which is the first of its kind in the UK, which allows cyclists a 5 second head start on the main traffic.

9. Other Integrated Transport Schemes

- Wigginton Road Cycle Route – Improvements to cycle route between Foss Island Cycle Route and Clarence Street Junction. The route will be completed in early 2011.
- Museum Street/Library Square – Improvements to the P&R bus stop and Library Square will start towards the end of the financial year. The scheme is part funded by a contribution from the Property budget to improve disabled access to the library.
- Deighton Right Turn Lane – Provision of a right turn lane and improved crossing to the bus stop on the A19 at Deighton. The scheme was completed in October in conjunction with the drainage and resurfacing works in the area.
- Safe Routes to School – Improved routes for pedestrians and cyclists will be provided to a number of schools including Hob Moor, Hempland, Haxby Road, Naburn and York High. 140 cycle parking spaces have been provide at Fulford School.

10. Access York Phase 1

Major scheme to deliver 3 new Park & Ride sites, capacity improvements to A59/A1237 roundabout and bus priorities on the A59 and Wigginton Road.

- Programme Entry awarded in March 2010.
- Major Scheme process suspended in June 2010.
- Major Scheme process restarted in October 2010. Access York Scheme Phase 1 scheme allocated to Development Pool.
- Planning permission has been obtained for all 3 sites.
- Options to buy the land for the main sites are in place and land acquisition of two smaller pieces is nearing completion.
- Detailed design for the Askham Bar site is continuing but detailed design of the other sites and A59 roundabout has been suspended pending a final funding decision.
- Government funding is unlikely to become available prior to 2012/13 and the scheme will have to complete with many others for the £600 million available over the 4 year CSR period.
- An Expression of Interest, for funding, has to be submitted by 4 January 2011 and a Final and Best funding bid issued by the Autumn 2011.
- A report detailing the proposed way forward will be submitted to the Executive Member Decision Session in January 2011.
- A decision on funding can be expected by the end of 2011, for a potential start in April 2012.
- Subject to funding approval it will then take about 2-2.5 years to complete the design, procurement and construction works, prior to the P&R sites becoming operational.

11. Subsidised Local Bus Service Provision

The council provides subsidies to enable a network of socially necessary public transport services to be provided to areas of the city where a purely commercial operation is not viable.

- The council currently supports 27 services carrying approximately 850,000 passengers per year with an estimated subsidy cost of £710k in 2010/11.
- Most of the current contracts expire in September 2011. A report is being presented to 7 December Executive Member Decision Session identifying options for service provision from September.
- The options presented to the Executive Member include a number of innovative measures to reduce costs such as changes to routes and the introduction of a taxi-bus. Conventional cost reduction options such as the removal of Sunday and evening services are also identified for consideration.
- Owing to a 20% reduction in Bus Service Operators Grant due to start in 2012 it is anticipated that the subsidised service budget will come under additional pressure as operator costs rise and an increased number of current commercial services could become unsustainable.
- Following the decision by the Executive Member a tendering exercise will be undertaken with the new services commencing in September 2011.

Corporate Priorities

12. The facilitation of the development of these major sites accords with the Council's priorities relating in particular to maintaining thriving a City through support for its economy and for a sustainable city, which is allowed to grow whilst maintaining York's special qualities.

Implications

13. There are no financial, human resources, crime and disorder, information technology, property or other implications directly associated with this information only report.

Risk management

14. Not applicable as this is an item for information only.

Recommendations

15. That the Committee note the present position in relation to major transport initiatives in the city.

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Wards affected – ALL