

**Proposed Decision to be taken by the
Portfolio Holder for Transport
on or after 16 June 2017**

**Approval to Submit Bids to the Department for Transport National
Productivity Investment Fund for the Local Road Network**

Recommendation

That the Portfolio Holder for Transport approves the submission of two bids to the Department for Transport National Productivity Fund for the Local Road Network.

1.0 Key Issues

- 1.1 It is a requirement of the County Council's constitution that Portfolio Holders approve funding bids submitted on behalf of the County Council.
- 1.2 This report seeks such approval in relation to two bids for highway improvements from the Department for Transport (DfT) National Productivity Investment Fund for the Local Road Network.

2.0 Options and Proposal

- 2.1 The purpose of the National Productivity Investment Fund for the Local Road Network is defined in the fund application guidance as being to 'increase and rebalance productivity, by relieving congestion and delivering upgrades to local roads and public transport networks'. The Department for Transport is inviting bids for projects that ease urban congestion, unlock economic growth and job creation opportunities and enable the delivery of housing development.
- 2.2 Bids can be for between £2 million and £5 million, or by exception, up to £10 million. Bidders are encouraged to make a local contribution of around 30% of the total project cost. Funding will be available for the financial years 2018/19 and 2019/20 with on-site works required to commence during 2018/19. The authority can submit a maximum of two bids.
- 2.3 Officers assessed a number of potential schemes against the fund criteria and identified the two projects that offer the best value for money. It is proposed that bids are submitted for these two schemes. These are:

A3400 Birmingham Road, Stratford-upon-Avon

- 2.4 It is proposed to bid for £2.4 million towards the £3.5 million scheme to address congestion on the A3400 Birmingham Road, the principal arterial route between Stratford-upon-Avon town centre and the A46 Stratford northern bypass. The scheme will unlock planned housing and employment growth on the corridor and support growth in the wider area by providing improved traffic flow, better conditions for pedestrians and cyclists and improved public realm. Birmingham Road has consistently been identified as a priority for action by the local community and the scheme proposals were supported by the majority of respondents to public consultation held in January 2016.
- 2.5 It is intended that the remaining project costs are funded from the Capital Investment Fund to which a funding bid was submitted in May 2017.
- 2.6 The scheme comprises the following improvements:
- Convert the existing 2 lane outbound section to inbound from St Peter's Way to Joseph Way.
 - Improve the pedestrian and cycle linkages between the Maybird Shopping Park and the northern part of the corridor.
 - Widen the road to 2 lanes either inbound or outbound between Regal Road roundabout and the merge point north of Hamlet Way.
 - Provide a new slip road into the Tesco site from Birmingham Road for inbound traffic.
 - Relocate the pedestrian/cycle crossing from south of the Tesco roundabout to opposite the main pedestrian entrance to the Maybird site.
 - Improve the pedestrian and cycle linkages between Stratford town centre and the Maybird Shopping Park.
- 2.7 Longer term improvements including provision of a new link road from Western Road to either Hamlet Way or Maybrook Road and the conversion of the Western Road junction to left-in left-out only are being considered, but do not form part of this bid.

A47 Hinckley Road Corridor, Nuneaton

- 2.8 The A47 Hinckley Road corridor scheme will address congestion between The Long Shoot and Nuneaton town centre by delivering improved highway capacity and sustainable transport infrastructure. The improvements will support the delivery of housing growth in this part of Nuneaton and improve connectivity between the A5 and the town centre.
- 2.9 The scheme comprises the following improvements:
- Signalisation of the junction of Hinckley Road and Higham Lane to increase capacity and provide improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.
 - Demolition of the disused rail bridge to increase highway capacity on the approach to Higham Lane and eradicate bridge strikes.
 - Signalisation of the junction of Hinckley Road and Eastboro Way.

- Dualling the northern section of Eastboro Way.

2.8 The scheme is currently estimated to cost £6 million and it is proposed to bid for the majority of this cost from the National Productivity Investment Fund. Further funding is expected to be available from S106 and S278 developer contributions and it is anticipated that Highways England, custodians of the disused railway bridge, will contribute to the bridge demolition costs. A bid will be made to the Capital Investment Fund for any remaining project costs.

3.0 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

3.1 As part of the Autumn Statement 2016 the Government announced the creation of a National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF) worth £23 billion. In November 2016 the Secretary of State for Transport indicated that £1.1 billion of this would be available to support local road network infrastructure projects. On 6th April the Government invited bids from local highway authorities for road and related network funding from the NPIF for 2018/19 and 2019/20, with £490 million available for this period. The deadline for the submission of bids is 30 June 2017.

3.2 Since the funding guidance was released officers have explored the best possible options for funding which meets the criteria set out in the guidance. All relevant documents are now being finalised for submission by 30th June 2017.

3.3 If the funding is obtained the schemes will be programmed for delivery during 2018/19 and 2019/20, subject to securing the required match funding.

4.0 Background papers

None

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local members: Cllr Lloyd, Cllr Clarke, Cllr Kondakor

Other members: Cllr Cockburn